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Gold Beach Hotel undergoes 1st major renovation in years. PAGE 2

Inos supports $34M budget for PSS. PAGE 3

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POLL RESULTS

Do you plan to go up to Mt. Tapochao on Good Friday?

Yes	48
No	72

Sunday, March 31, 2013

INSIDE

NATION

Hundreds of patients of an Oklahoma oral surgeon accused of unsanitary practices showed up at a health clinic Saturday.

➤ PAGE 15

ASIA

North Korea warned Seoul on Saturday that the Korean Peninsula had entered "a state of war."

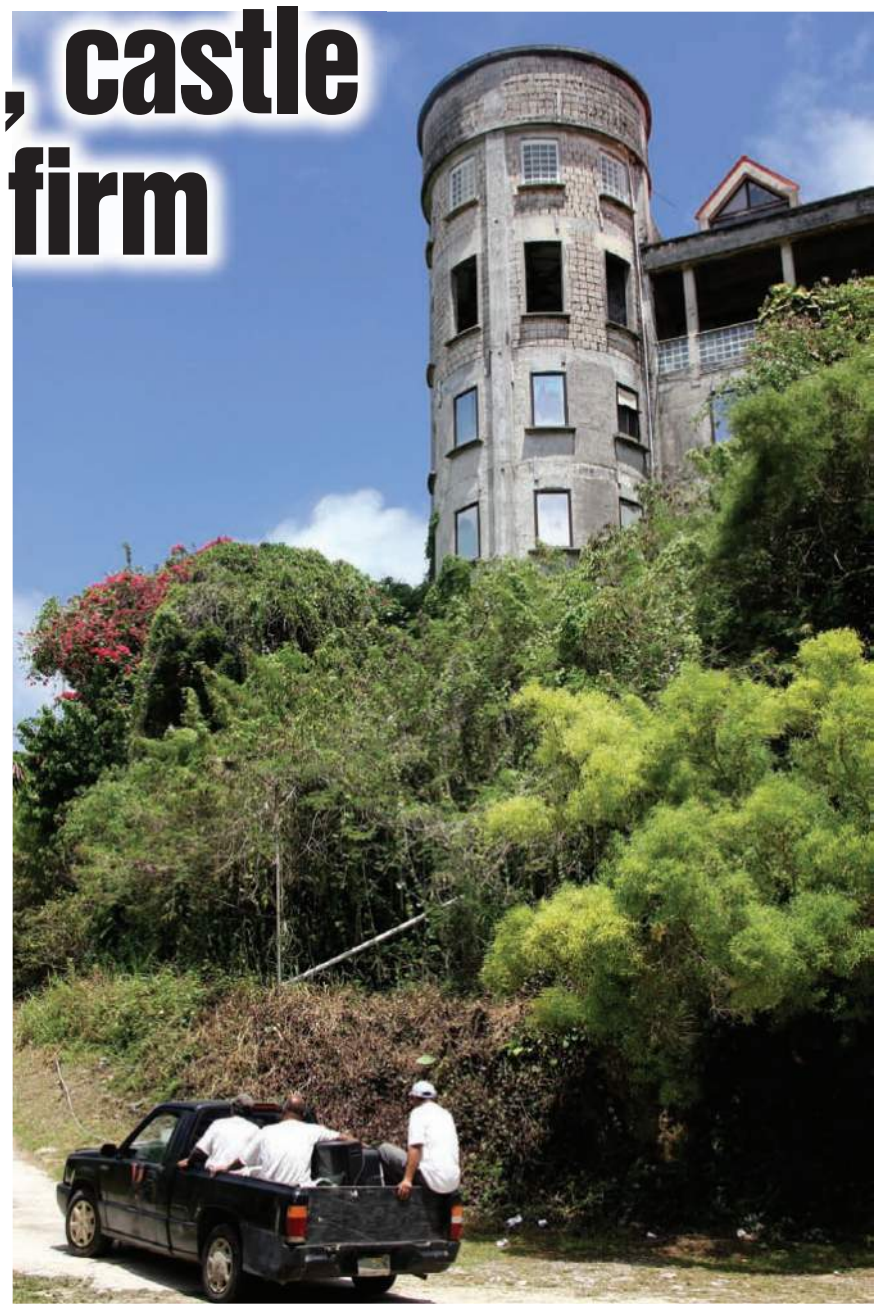
➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

Justin Bieber had to leave a monkey in quarantine after landing in Germany last week.

➤ PAGE 21

Millard's mansion, castle to house Chinese firm



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Construction workers prepare to leave computer tycoon William H. Millard's Papago property, where an unfinished castle-shaped structure and mansion have been accommodating a church and families free of charge for years. But that will soon change as the Millard property will be occupied by a Chinese firm for its real estate and diving business on Saipan.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» But some families living there for years question move

Computer tycoon William H. Millard's unfinished castle and mansion in Papago will be occupied by Chinese firm Nereus Corp. for its real estate and diving business on Saipan in May, but some of the families who have been living in the property free of charge for several years are questioning whether it is "proper and legal" for anyone to generate revenue from said property.

Millard, founder of ComputerLand Corp. and once listed as among the richest people in America, allegedly owes the CNMI government over $118 million in unpaid income tax plus interest on judgments.

To date, the CNMI has yet to collect

See CASTLE on Page 4

Hundreds continue Good Friday tradition at Mt. Tapochao

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Male volunteers erect the giant wooden cross at the peak of Mt. Tapochao as part of the Good Friday tradition on island.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The decades-old tradition of trudging the rugged terrain of Mt. Tapochao on Good Friday continues to be practiced on Saipan, attracting hundreds of Catholics and other Christian pilgrims who got up on the earlier side this year to reach the mountain summit.

Throngs of faithful arrived prepared at the base of Saipan's highest elevation with flashlights to light their path and jackets to protect them from the chilly air in the wee hours of the morning following a rain shower.

But the partly muddy trail did not put off hikers who streamed along the path to observe the Lenten holiday that marks the Passion and Death of Christ, with some of them stopping off at each of the Stations of the Cross that were set up for the first time this year to encourage the predominantly Catholic community in the CNMI to reflect on

See TAPOCHAO on Page 4

DOROMAL TO US CONGRESS:

Grant permanent residency to 12,000 legal aliens in NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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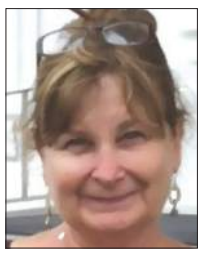
REPORTER



Doromal

Florida-based human rights activist and former CNMI teacher Wendy Doromal wrote to members of the U.S. Congress and other officials in Washington, D.C., urging them to provide permanent residency status and pathway to U.S. citizenship to an estimated 12,000 "legal" nonresident workers and others who have resided in the CNMI for years. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has been working to include a CNMI provision in an immigration reform bill, something that Gov. Eloy S. Inos generally supports.

A bipartisan group in Congress and the Obama administration are looking at granting a pathway to citizenship to some 11 million undocumented aliens in the U.S.

See ALIENS on Page 4

Gold Beach Hotel undergoes 1st major renovation in years

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The former Saipan Gold Beach Hotel has rebranded itself under new management, simultaneously undergoing its first major renovation in years to take advantage of the upturn in the CNMI's tourism industry.

Gold Beach Hotel Saipan is now owned and operated by North Star Corp. At the helm of the new owner is company president Terry H. Kim, son of previous owner Yong Kyun Kim of Marisai Inc., and the younger Kim's wife, vice president and managing director Kyong Won "Veronica" Lee.

Lee said the acquisition of the hotel, which was originally built in 1988, was completed just recently, with the repair work commenced around January as part of the new management's strategy to provide future hotel guests a more enjoyable accommodation during their visit to Saipan.

She said they decided to somehow keep the name which was inspired by the older Kim's impression of the island and the actual hotel location.

"My father-in-law fell in love with Saipan," Lee said in an interview. "He was really impressed about this beachfront property that he envisioned a hotel where guests would experience the same atmosphere that he enjoys about the island."

While the name was retained, the hotel's exterior and interior, which has been the same for 25 years, wasn't spared from the overhaul. Lee said the ongoing extensive renovation would bring about a Gold Beach Hotel Saipan that's as good as new—from the façade and lobby to the room's furniture and fixtures.

The four-storey structure has a total of 50 rooms of two different types: the standard rooms which measure about 600 sq. ft. and the deluxe rooms which boast of 1,200 sq. ft. in space and have the better view with its location on the third and fourth floors. It presently offers guests a swimming pool, free Wi-fi access in every room, coin-operated laundry machines, ice cream parlor, massage place, and a beauty salon.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Gold Beach Hotel Saipan, which is formerly the Saipan Gold Beach Hotel, is now under new management and is undergoing its first major renovation work in years.

Before long, the hotel will have a patio, barbecue station, conference room, souvenir shop, and a restaurant featuring Hong Kong cuisine. Lee disclosed that they target to complete the renovation work by May.

Even as the renovation work is still in progress, Lee said their phone lines are already ringing off the hook from the inquiries and reservations being made this early by several travel agencies and tour operators that deal with Japanese, Korean, and Chinese travelers.

The interest on their hotel doesn't just come from off-island guests, according to Lee. Even local residents and potential customers from neighboring islands have been asking about room availability months from now.

"We're anticipating that the future would be good for us and hopefully the entire CNMI. I believe that our renovation has the right timing," Lee said.

Asked what makes Gold Beach Hotel Saipan stand out from other similar hotels on island, Lee said it would be the panoramic view of the island's

See HOTEL on Page 4

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New acoustic duo featured at Nami Bar

CLARISSA V. DAVID
J.R. Cadua, left, and Jocelyn Itibus have been entertaining Nami Bar patrons with mellow acoustic sounds for about three weeks now.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A young and up-and-coming duo is now playing daily at the Nami Bar at Kanoa Resort.

J.R. Cadua and Jocelyn Itibus have been entertaining Nami Bar patrons with mellow acoustic sounds for about three weeks now.

Guitarist Cadua and vocalist Itibus were actually members of a defunct band that used to perform back in 2011 at the Tribes Bar.

Although the rest of the band members have gone their separate ways, the two have decided to carry on with their passion for music.

Cadua and Itibus give an acoustic twist to songs from different genres, including alternative and reggae music.

They play at Nami Bar from Monday to Friday from 7:30pm to 11pm, and the duo said in a joint interview that management is already considering them to play at Kanoa Resort's beach as well. However, they have yet to decide on the name for their act.

"We just started as a duo but we can cater to any type of music that customers would like to hear," said the 20-year-old Cadua, whose first musical instrument he learned to play was drums at the age of 4.

Cadua is the older of two sons of Chato and Roger Cadua, who impersonates Elvis Presley and is well-known for his performance at the Stars & Stripes dinner cruise.

"My parents are both musicians but it's my dad who really influenced me to learn playing the guitar," added the younger Cadua.

Itibus, the eldest of five siblings, revealed that singing prowess lies in their blood. "In my family, we are all singers," said the 27-year-old songstress.

The two hopes that through their gig, more customers will check out Nami Bar, adding that their shows have an open-mic policy where guests can request and even perform their song.

"We'll be here to entertain tourists and local customers with our music," they added.

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Local

Inos supports $34M budget for PSS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public Schools System may end up getting a higher budget in the new fiscal year if the Legislature concurs on the final numbers that will be submitted by the Executive Branch, which promised education officials a budget that is more than what it currently has.

State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero disclosed that board officials had a recent meeting with Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the former said the governor conveyed his "support" on the many issues about public schools.

On top of these concerns is the budget item for public schools where Inos, according to Guerrero, expressed support for a $3-million increase in PSS' budget for next fiscal year, from the existing $31 million for FY 2013.

Guerrero briefly highlighted their March 7 meeting in Capitol Hill with the governor in his latest correspondence to Inos. The BOE chair revealed that the governor also offered creative solutions on other funding issues of PSS such as the unmet maintenance-of-effort requirement and the anticipated financial impact of automatic cuts initiated in the national level.

"We are grateful for the time you have given us and would like to highlight the key points we discussed at our meeting. Creative solutions that you have offered to offset the federal budget shortfall created by sequestration and at the same meeting the outstanding maintenance-of-effort requirement by increasing the PSS local budget by $3 million from the current $31 million in FY 2014," Guerrero's letter to Inos stated.

According to PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburg, the sequestration initiated in the national level is anticipated to cost CNMI PSS $3.5 million in its federal grants beginning March 1. PSS is also still owed by the central government some $4 million for the unmet MOE in FY 2010 and 2011.

The BOE chief disclosed that the new governor was also supportive of the request of PSS to take back the administration of Child Care program from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

"Your support to restore the designation to the PSS to be the lead agency for the Child Care Development Program which is an early childhood education program that dovetails with our Head Start Program," revealed Guerrero.

Also highlighted by Guerrero is the governor's support to PSS in serving as the successor agency for the Northern Marianas College when its accreditation is revoke in January 2014.

"Since the students enrolled at NMC come from PSS high schools and since NMC originated from the PSS, we will craft a 2+2 program that will ensure post-secondary educational continuity for our students. We will provide an educational plan that outlines how we will do this—in the event that you call us to implement the plan," reminded Guerrero.

Guerrero also commended Inos for supporting a special water and wastewater rate for PSS that is pegged at the commercial rate with the government to assume the difference between the two rates.

"For waiving the penalties on the withholding taxes as we would have paid the taxes on time had we received the funding on time. We paid the taxes and are current in our payment of taxes," added Guerrero.

PSS has 19 school campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as well as 10 Head Start centers. It is also accommodating 10,592 students this school year. The system has a total of 1,100 teachers and support staff including federally funded employees.

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Inos tightens government travel policy

Gov. Eloy S. Inos issued a directive requiring that all airline tickets for approved government travel shall be bought at the "approved and applicable discounted rate," as part of the administration's moves to control spending.

The directive, dated Feb. 22 or two days after Inos became governor on Feb. 20, is "effective immediately" and covers all locally and federally funded travel.

"All autonomous and independent agencies are requested to follow this directive so as to limit and control government expenses," Inos said in his one-page directive to all departments and agencies.

For some on Capital Hill, the governor's directive means an end to business-class travel among government officials and employees.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan, when asked to clarify the memo, said oftentimes, air service providers offer a government discounted rate. Otherwise, the approved rate for government travel is always the lesser fare amount of all available fares for the particular travel date, he said.

"Approved government travel still remains limited to economy class fares. As has been the common practice, government employees on official travel are allowed to make self-arranged upgrades if they so wish, provided it is at no cost to the government. Essentially, the traveler may opt to pay out of pocket for the fare difference," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

TAPOCHAO

From Page 1

the message of the occasion.

The Good Friday observance formally began once the giant wooden cross was transported from the Mount Carmel Cathedral, where it was blessed, to the base Mt. Tapochao, where devotees initiated carrying the symbol.

Fr. Nonoy Recaido, parish priest of Santa Remedios Church and in charge of this year's celebration, said they were on schedule when they left the cathedral at about 5am. The only delay was hauling the cross to fit into the truck, as the Department of Public Safety wouldn't allow them to leave without properly securing the vehicle.

At 6am, the devotees carried the cross from the base to the peak of Mt. Tapochao where it was traditionally raised. Recaido noted the big crowd that opted to join the early morning liturgy and gospel reading that culminated the observance.

Recaido and Santa Remedios parishioners also took charge of the Easter Sunday Mass at Mt. Tapochao at 5am yesterday.

"As we celebrate Easter, may we all be reminded that with Christ's death, He opened the heavens for the salvation of mankind. May our fasting continue beyond Lent so we can purify ourselves and continue to live the life that Christ wanted for us," Recaido told *Saipan Tribune.*

This year's pilgrims transcended race, age, and approach to atonement of sins. Joseph Mendiola said it has become his tradition to ride his mountain bike all the way to the tip of Mt. Tapochao, taking stops on the trail's steep parts.

Mendiola, 52, said his Good Friday bike ride is not only a religious custom but also a way to maintain good health and repent for sins.

"Once I reach the summit, I feel so blessed. God gave me a second life and I've become more determined to continue this Good Friday tradition every year," said Mendiola who woke up from his 15-day coma caused by a major vehicular accident in Las Vegas several years ago.

Another devotee, who was seen walking barefoot, said he feels more able to atone for his sins when he does his annual walk that starts from his residence on Middle Road.

Along the road, hikers from all over the island received free refreshments from at least five civic organizations, including the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, United Filipino Organization, and Bicol Association in Northern Mariana Islands.

The crowds of religious followers, however, reportedly have left behind trash from water bottles and paper cups, but Mayor Donald G. Flores said his personnel will see to it that the Mt. Tapochao area will be tidy and uncluttered as Lent is brought to a close.

Easter Sunday celebrations were also marked yesterday by many hotels with egg hunt events for children.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Hundreds of Catholics and other Christian faithful gather near the summit of Mt. Tapochao as they watch volunteers raise up the giant wooden cross, not in photo, as part of the Good Friday tradition in the CNMI.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Devotees carry the giant wooden cross from the base to the peak of Mt. Tapochao early morning on March 29 for the observance of Good Friday.

CASTLE

From Page 1

from Millard who, along with his family, lived on Saipan for years during which time they sold their interests in ComputerLand for over $200 million.

Former representative Manasses "Manny" Borja said the Millards authorized him to be the caretaker for the property, which he estimates to be at $15 million.

He said Nereus Corp. will be paying a yet-to-be-negotiated amount every month to help in the upkeep and maintenance of the property, which he said has deteriorated and has been infested with termites and rats.

"No, I am not leasing (it to them). It's assignment of custodian," Borja told *Saipan Tribune*.

Borja said he is one of Nereus Corp.'s directors and consultant.

One of the families asked to relocate from the Millard property separately said Borja "does not have the authority" to have the place "rented" out and "make money out of it."

Borja reiterated yesterday he is the authorized caretaker of the property, adding that the property has generously opened its doors to families for several years free of charge and "no one questioned" that caretaker authority.

Yangtze Corp., also a Chinese-owned firm, started construction at the Millard property two weeks ago but was temporarily halted last week because of a lack of a Department of Public Works building permit. After a few days, construction resumed after securing a permit.

Marianas Christian Church, formerly Saipan Christian Church, and some families, were given up to April 30, 2013 to move out of the Millard property.

The church and the families were initially notified in the middle of March about the need to relocate.

Borja said the church and its members' families living on the property, some of them for 14 or 15 years free of charge were given "ample time" to move out and were offered a relocation site in As Lito also free of charge for at least five years.

As of yesterday, two families have relocated, but not to the As Lito property. Borja said they offered to financially help the families with their relocation.

Pablo Medina, pastor of Marianas Christian Church, and Melqi Pacis, church adviser, separately said they are grateful for Borja for accommodating them to the Millard castle and mansion since at least 1998.

Medina, also the president of Filipino pastors in the CNMI, said they are not charged anything for occupying the property. They only pay for utilities, which is also under Borja's name.

"It's been a big blessing for the church to use this without any obligation. Mr. Borja is doing his best to help the church," Medina said.

One of the families said "Chinese representatives and their employees" started construction at the property "even when families were still living there." The family representative said there was also a time when the door of one of the families' units was forcefully opened.

Borja said there was no property stolen from that unit and they apologized to the family, which he said already moved out.

"We offered them financial help, so that they can make advance rental payment for example," he said yesterday.

Another church member said they recognize that "maybe it's time for the property to make a profit" after years of being idle.

Construction of the Millard castle and mansion in Papago was never completed.

According to the CNMI government, the Millards left Saipan in August 1990 and their whereabouts have been unknown, until about 2010 when the CNMI government's lawyers and investigators tracked Millard and his wife on Grand Cayman Island in the western Caribbean.

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial and then Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, now governor, announced in September 2011 that the government initiated proceedings in the U.S. District Court of the NMI against Willard and his wife Patricia Millard in relation to a $118,043,5353 CNMI income tax claim.

The Fitial administration tapped New York-based Kobre & Kim in 2010, to lead the case in going after the Millards to collect the unpaid taxes.

ALIENS

From Page 1

mainland.

President Barack Obama is expecting that a comprehensive immigration bill will be ready this month.

Doromal, in an e-mail interview, said "ideally, any current legal, long-term nonresident worker who has worked continuously in the CNMI for five years prior to the enactment of any comprehensive immigration bill should be granted permanent residency status and after five years should qualify to apply for U.S. citizenship."

"Of course, what is important now is to get the legal, longterm foreign workers a provision in any comprehensive immigration reform bill. Compromises should be expected," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Doromal said it would be "grossly unjust if the undocumented aliens in the U.S. mainland were to be given a lesser period of time to qualify, were to be granted a higher status (say permanent residency versus non-citizenship status) or less years to obtain citizenship, than the CNMI legal, nonresidents were."

She also said any guest worker program that lacks a pathway to citizenship is "inhumane."

"I would expect after three to five years a legal nonresident worker under a guest worker program should qualify to be set on a pathway to citizenship," she added.

A sample of Doromal's letter sent to Congress members and other federal officials urged them to "reconcile the legal status" given to the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. mainland "with the plight of the estimated 12,000 'legal' long-term nonresidents " of the CNMI."

"These foreigners entered our country legally and have lived and worked legally in the CNMI for many years, and many of them have done so for 20 or more years. They are law-abiding residents, productive community members, and dedicated laborers," she said.

Nonresident workers make up some 70 percent of the CNMI's private sector workforce and essential to the islands' social and economic wellbeing.

"They are needed to stabilize the economic and investment environment if the CNMI economy is to flourish," Doromal added.

HOTEL

From Page 2

azure waters evident from the hotel.

"We may not be in the downtown tourist area but our location still has a good advantage because it makes our guests focus on the view and atmosphere of the island, which is really majestic," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Besides, Lee said, the tourist hub that is Garapan is only a couple of minutes away from the hotel. Once the renovation work is completed, guests staying at Gold Beach Hotel Saipan will have all the accessibility they need to their most basic needs.

Lee said they look forward to partnering with many tour operators to better promote the hotel and ensure that occupancy is at its maximum constantly. She added that they will also advertise their information through Internet-based travel websites such as expedia.com.

"We are hopeful that we will be of great service to our customers as we launch the renovated Gold Beach Hotel Saipan. We are also optimistic that all of us will benefit in the improvements we are seeing in the tourism industry," said Lee.

'Purpose of 2 Fund laws to unilaterally reduce govt payments to Fund'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The real purpose of Public Laws 17-82 and 18-2 is to unilaterally and immediately reduce the CNMI's payments into the NMI Retirement Fund, according to retiree Betty Johnson.

Johnson, through counsel Robert M. Hatch, said Public Laws 17-82 and 18-2 allow the CNMI government to immediately halt its current and ongoing obligation to make statutorily mandated employer contributions even though the CNMI is already delinquent on these payments by over $300.

"The CNMI touts the advantages of refunding current employee contributions and eliminating their long term benefits, but the real, immediate impact of P.L. 17-82 is the elimination of CNMI's statutorily mandated current employer contributions, and this is what primarily necessitated the Fund's request for instruction and plaintiff's (Johnson) current motion for clarification," Hatch said in Johnson's reply in support of her emergency motion.

Public Law 17-82 allows the Fund members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions without separating from the government.

Public Law 18-2 compels the Fund to release up to 50 percent of members' contributions within 30 days of submitting a refund application.

Johnson filed an emergency motion for clarification of the federal court's order dated Jan. 18, 2013 with respect to Public Law 18-2.

Johnson alleges that an emergency hearing is necessary because the passage of P.L. 18-2 will affect the viability of the ongoing settlement process.

Hatch said the Fund shows in its response that the current employees' contributions are safe and segregated in "Tranche A" while the rest of the Fund's assets are in "Tranche B."

Hatch said because of the CNMI's past delinquencies, Tranche B is grossly underfunded and will run out of money in less than a year.

In contrast, Hatch said, Tranche A is safer and cannot be used to pay operating costs, lawyer fees, or benefits to current retirees.

The lawyer said Public Laws 17-82 and 18-2 propose immediately refunding the safe money in Tranche A while simultaneously slashing the amount of money that the CNMI will be paying into the dangerously underfunded Tranche B.

"These laws, thus, hasten the demise of Tranche B but do nothing to protect Tranch A," he said.

Hatch said the CNMI argues that it is beneficial to reduce its long term obligation to pay retirement benefits by allowing current employees to withdraw, but this will have no impact before Tranche B is exhausted, and will do nothing to solve the immediate crisis with Tranche B or facilitate settlement.

"The crisis facing Tranche B is not how to pay the benefits of current employees 10 years from now, it is how to survive the next twelve months," he said.

When Tranche B is exhausted, the Fund will cease to be able to function and neither Johnson nor any other retiree will receive any payments, but the money in Tranche A will still be safe, he said.

Hatch said there is no crisis facing Tranche A, and immediately refunding Tranch A will not help Tranche B survive even one day longer or facilitate negotiation of a viable settlement.

"While the CNMI may for political reasons, have crafted P.L. 17-82 to emphasize the refund of current employee contributions, this aspect, itself, is not the heart of the problem with P.L. 17-82," he said.

Hatch said the most important issue in settlement is the creation of a sound mechanism for future payments by the CNMI into Tranche B to make up for its past delinquencies.

Hatch said requiring immediate compliance with Public Laws 17-82 and 18-2 will irreparably and adversely impact the settlement negotiations and impair any chance to negotiate and implement a sound and reasonable solution before Tranch B is exhausted, and the Fund is dead.

NMHC to conduct special inspections on Section 8 units

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. will conduct Housing Quality Standards or HQS special inspections on all Section 8 assisted units throughout April and May.

NMHC corporate director Jesse S. Palacios said the written notices regarding the inspections will be hand-delivered or mailed out to program participants beginning today.

Palacios said the decision to conduct inspections comes on the heels of the recommendation made by the agency's board of directors to perform quarterly inspections due to violations involving HQS and housing assistance payments or HAPs,

He said the violations discovered by Section 8 inspection and

See NMHC on Next Page

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-13-016
PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS
(Phase No. 3)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the procurement and installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (ChST) on **March 14, 2013** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-016, Procurement and Installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on April 9, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualifications should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page—http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **March 19, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

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Corporation holds back transferring Rota doctor to Tinian

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Babauta

Tinian Health Clinic will continue to have no permanent doctor following the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s decision to postpone its plan to transfer one of the physicians from Rota to Tinian.

CEO Juan N. Babauta said decision was made so not to jeopardize the stable operation of the Rota Health Center which has been enjoying two permanent doctors for several years now.

"There were some internal discussions on possibility of permanently transferring one of the doctors from Rota to Tinian. I recognize that would potentially be disruptive for Rota given the very stable situation RHC has been for the longest time on physician coverage," said Babauta.

CHCC, he said, is currently working on other ways to help the Tinian Health Center and bring some consistency and stability even if there is no full-time doctor assigned there for now. Active recruitment for permanent doctor is ongoing, he revealed.

THC has been operating without a doctor since the passing of Dr. Frank Pair last Jan. 8. Since then, longtime nurse practitioner Arley Long has been in charge of the delivery of healthcare services. Long, it was earlier disclosed, is working everyday at the center.

Saipan Tribune learned that the midlevel provides diagnosis, treatments, and refers patients to Commonwealth Health Center for further tests and evaluation. All emergency cases, meantime, are referred to Saipan.

In an earlier interview with THC director William Cing, he said the center, which mostly serves as outpatient clinic, accommodates about 25 to 30 patients daily. On weekends, an estimated two to four patients usually come in to seek treatment and other services.

In view of the critical need to cover the healthcare services in THC, the corporation earlier wanted to utilize the expertise of one of the two physicians on Rota, Francois Claassens and James Toskas.

THC has about 30 personnel including its resident director. These employees include nine nurses, a laboratory technician, an x-ray technician, two pharmacists, two staff for environmental health, one staff for the medical supply office, two for housekeeping, two trade maintenance workers, and three at its accounting unit. THC provides both inpatient and emergency care.

NMHC

From Page 5

building preservation staff resulted to an increase in the number of terminated families and abatements of landlord HAPs.

Palacios said in a statement that the Section 8 administrative plan has been amended to include quarterly HQS inspections. Presently, the agency performs inspections annually and when necessary. The proposed amendment will be presented at the next NMHC board meeting.

For the imminent special HQS inspections, Palacios said that NMHC will be using performance and acceptability criteria for key aspects of housing quality, including sanitary facilities, food preparation and refuse disposal, space and security, thermal environment, illumination and electricity, structure and materials, interior air quality, water supply, lead-based paint, access, site and neighborhood, sanitary conditions, and smoke detectors.

Program and Housing Division manager Kimo Rosario said he fully supports the decision to conduct the inspections to satisfy program mandates, protect and preserve privately-owned units, and ensure that no Section 8 family lives under substandard housing conditions.

"During this period of reduced funding due to sequestration, NMHC recognizes the importance of making every penny count. Aptly, we will exercise our fiduciary responsibility to make certain that every penny is well spent and per its intended purposes," he said.

Rosario revealed that among the "severe" contract and lease agreement violations discovered on Section 8 assisted units include families moving out of assisted units without properly notifying NMHC and/or landlord; families engaging in unauthorized lodging of relatives or friends not listed in lease agreements; and units discovered to be without power and/or water.

He emphasized that the HAP contract, the formal agreement between a landlord and NMHC, "clearly" states that the contract will be terminated automatically when a family moves out of the unit.

"On that note, landlords are strongly encouraged to read the HAP contract in its entirety to fully understand their obligations and responsibilities under the said contract," he said.

Palacios added that a unit without power and/or water "cannot possibly be determined as being safe, decent, or sanitary."

"Therefore, per prescribed regulations, units must comply with HQS throughout the duration of the assisted tenancy," said Palacios. "Furthermore, families who shoulder the costs for power are provided with a utility allowance which is determined based on unit size and the types of utilities that they pay for (i.e., water, power, sewer, garbage collection, etc.)."

Palacios said that Bryan Bocago, NMHC special assistant for Housing and Low Income Housing and Tax Credit programs, is now reviewing the current utility rates to determine any need to increase or decrease the rates by 10 percent.

The corporate director said that NMHC is required by its funding agency, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to adjust the utility allowance schedule if utility rates increase or decrease by at least 10 percent.

A subsidiary of the Commonwealth Development Authority, NMHC is the Commonwealth's key provider for housing, mortgage and community development programs.

For more information, visit the NMHC ffice along Micro Beach Road or call 234-6866.

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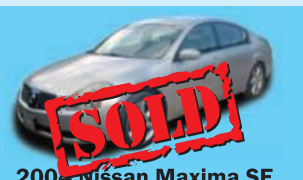
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Bank of Hawaii
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and Subsidiaries

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
At the Close of Business December 31, 2012 (dollars in thousands)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Interest-Bearing Deposits	$ 3,393	Deposits	$ 11,529,482
Investment Securities	6,962,622	Securities Sold Under Agreements to Repurchase	758,947
Funds Sold	185,682	Funds Purchased	11,296
Loans Held for Sale	21,374	Banker's Acceptances	173
Loans and Leases	5,854,521	Retirement Benefits Payable	47,658
Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses	(128,857)	Accrued Interest Payable	4,776
Net Loans and Leases	5,725,664	Taxes Payable and Deferred Taxes	88,014
TOTAL EARNING ASSETS	12,898,735	Other Liabilities	138,306
		Long-Term Debt	128,055
Cash and Noninterest-Bearing Deposits	163,786		
Premises and Equipment	105,005	TOTAL LIABILITIES	12,706,707
Customers' Acceptances	173		
Accrued Interest Receivable	43,077	Shareholders' Equity	
Foreclosed Real Estate	3,887	Common Stock	571
Mortgage Servicing Rights	25,240	Capital Surplus	515,619
Goodwill	31,517	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	29,208
Other Assets	456,952	Retained Earnings	1,084,477
		Treasury Stock, at Cost	(608,210)
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 13,728,372	TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	1,021,665
		TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	$ 13,728,372

BANK OF HAWAII - SAIPAN
STATEMENT OF CONDITION
At the Close of Business December 31, 2012 (dollars in thousands)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 2,308	Deposits	$ 118,013
Loans, Net of Unearned Income	16,770	Accrued Interest Payable	9
Allowance for Loan Losses	(438)	Other Liabilities	32
Net Loans	16,332		
Accrued Interest Receivable	99	TOTAL LIABILITIES	$ 118,054
Due from Head Office	98,916		
Premises and Equipment	269		
Other Assets	130		
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 118,054		

The audit reports of Bank of Hawaii Corporation and Bank of Hawaii - Saipan Branches are available for public review at the Office of the Director of Banking, Department of Commerce, Capital Hill, Saipan.

MEMBER FDIC

DPS storage room burglarized anew

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Even the Department of Public Safety is not safe from burglars.

On Thursday, DPS personnel discovered that one of their storage rooms in Susupe was burglarized and some items were stolen.

DPS is expected to release details about the incident today, Monday.

Saipan Tribune learned that the burglar or burglars managed to enter the storage room by smashing a portion of a wall in the storage room.

The room used to be one of the offices of the Superior Court. DPS has been using the room to store recovered stolen items, among other evidence. The items were not claimed by the owners.

A DPS initial inventory showed that bush cutters and other tools were among those stolen during the break-in.

Due to the burglary, DPS decided to transfer some of the items to another storage room.

In August 2010, the DPS evidence room in Susupe was also burglarized and several boxes of dried marijuana trees and copper wires that were confiscated as evidence were stolen.

Investigators found a trail of marijuana leading to the northwestern portion of the parking lot of the Marianas Business Plaza (formerly Nauru Building) and also in the bushes along a road behind the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division in Susupe. A concerned citizen's call led to the arrest of an ex-convict in the 2010 case.

Korean community to sponsor 16 local students for cultural exchange in Korea

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Korean Community of Saipan plans to send local students to Korea this year to take part in a student educational and cultural exchange and is seeking the community's assistance for the success of the program.

The trip is scheduled in June in Seoul, South Korea where l6 local students will have the chance to visit and learn about the place.

"The purpose of this program is to enhance the career objective and vision of local students and to help them gain understanding, acquire knowledge, and develop skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world," stated the Korean Community of Saipan in its statement Friday.

According to the group, the trip is for five days which aims to provide viable opportunity to 16 students, from 15 to 19 years old, to engage on exchange program to experience the Korean cultural, educational, religious and social values. The program, it said, will enable students to visit the leading industries in Korea such as Samsung, Hyundai, LG, and other globally competitive companies.

In addition, participants will also be given opportunity to see and enjoy South Korea's historical places and sites.

On April 6, the Korean Community of Saipan will conduct a golf tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort as its initial fundraiser for the program. The proceeds of the event will be added to the fund needed to support the airfare, food, accommodation and other related expenses of each participating students. The group is seeking the community's support on this event set at 1pm on Saturday.

The tournament has the following exciting prizes including a roundtrip airline ticket as the hole-in-one prize; and cash prizes for other winners. Ticket prize is set at $100 for the tournament and can be purchased by calling the Korean Community of Saipan at 234-0415.

Camacho finds probable cause to charge suspected 'ice' trafficker

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against a man accused of actively selling methamphetamine or "ice" in Chalan Kanoa.

During a preliminary hearing last week, Camacho said he heard the testimony of the government's witness and found probable cause to believe that the crimes of trafficking of controlled substance and illegal possession of controlled substance were committed and that the person who may have committed the offenses is Patrick Acosta.

Camacho ordered the 33-year-old Acosta to answer the charges and remanded him into the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Arraignment will be on April 1 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as counsel for Acosta. Assistant attorney general Chemere McField represented the government.

According to the charging information, on Jan. 9, 2013 on Saipan, Acosta unlawfully delivered and possessed crystal methamphetamine.

Drug Enforcement Task Force Officer Dennis Reyes stated in his report that their cooperating source managed to purchase $50 worth of "ice" from Acosta last Jan. 9.

Reyes said when Acosta was arrested last Jan. 17 for trafficking and illegal possession of a controlled substance, he agreed to assist the law enforcers as a confidential informant.

The Department of Public Safety agreed to release Acosta without bail subject to certain conditions.

Reyes said Acosta, however, has not cooperated with law enforcers in ongoing investigations.

The defendant's non-cooperation prompted the Office of the Attorney General to file motions to revoke the defendant's release on own recognizance and to unseal the case. The court recently granted the motions. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT
of Public Auction
under Power of Sale
in Deed of Trust

In accordance with the provisions of 2 CMC §4626 of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Deed of Trust Act, 2 CMC §4611, et seq., Trustee Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, hereby gives Notice that the Public Sale of the real property described as **Lot No. 128 D 51**, and more particularly described below, has been postponed until **Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.**

As required by 2 CMC §4626, at the public sale on Friday, December 10, 2012 and again at the initial postponement on February 8, 2013, the Trustee made a public declaration of this postponement, and continued the public sale to a new date of **Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.**

Accordingly, pursuant to 2 CMC §4622(b)(2) and 2 CMC §4626, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee Northern Marianas Housing Corporation will be **Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust received from Francisco L. Kaipat, sell the following described real property:

Lot No. 128 D 51, (formerly known as part of Lot 018 D 57), containing an area of 620 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 128 D 00, the original of which was recorded 07 Dec 1999 as Document No. 99-2896 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan

at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance shall be due within seventy-two (72) hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within seventy-two (72) hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned real property will automatically revert to NMHC, as Trustee. The real property shall be sold **"AS IS"** without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed, or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to cancel or postpone the date, time, and place of sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2013.

/S/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Lot No.:	128 D 51
Area:	620 m²
Gross Living Area:	1,201 Ft²
Location:	Adilanto Loop, Sugar King Estates, Saipan
3 BR, 2 Bath	
Minimum Bid:	$52,000.00
Bid Date:	April 2, 2013
Bid Time:	10:00 a.m.
Bid Place:	NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan

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- **Saturday, April 6th** 9:00am - 1:00pm

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CNMI Water Task Force

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB13-GOV-087

Security Services for Water Task Force Warehouse

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **March 11, 2013**.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this contract is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA. The Contractor is required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **10:00 a.m.** local time, **March 22, 2013**, at the CNMI Water Task Force Conference Room, 1316 Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

All questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 pm, March 21, 2013**, to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Bids must be sealed and marked **"IFB13-GOV-087"**. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m.** local time, **April 10, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m.** local time, **April 10, 2013,** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 10, 2013**, and must be received no later than **April 19, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **April 22. 2013**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **April 10, 2013**.

The bid procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any imperfections in any bid if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **ELOY S. INOS**
Governor

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-13-017

Supply and Delivery of Materials and Tools for CUC Water Well Upgrade Project

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water well upgrade project in Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water wells upgrade project, Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Form. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 8, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Water/Wastewater, Chief Engineer via email john.riegel@cucgov.org and Robert Malate, Water/Wastewater, Engineer via email robert.malate@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Policy claim of 3 children whose father drowned on Rota denied

An insurance company has filed a lawsuit to discharge it from any obligation to three children whose father, a then trade specialist of the Department of Public Health and Environmental Services, reportedly drowned accidentally on Rota in 2011.

FirstNet Insurance Company is suing in federal court Monica H. Semilla, and Teresita Montana, as the attorney in fact for the children—Albert, Aljerom, and Angelica Similla.

FirstNet Insurance, through counsel Richard W. Pierce, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue a judgment discharging the company from any obligation to Monica H. Semilla, the spouse of the late Alberto S. Semilla, and to Alberto Semilla's three children.

According to Pierce, Firstnet insured the life of Alberto S. Semilla under a group life policy with the government of the CNMI.

Pierce said the policy of insurance provided basic coverage on Mr. Semilla's life in the amount of $40,000.

He said Mr. Semilla accidentally drowned on April 23, 2011 on Rota.

Pierce said Monica H. Semilla, the spouse and named beneficiary under the policy of insurance, is a U.S. citizen and a resident of Guam.

Pierce said Monica Semilla has not filed a claim on the proceeds of the life insurance policy and her time for filing a claim has expired.

Pierce said Teresita Montana, self-described as the attorney in fact for three children of the late Alberto Semilla, filed a claim on behalf of the three children—Albert, Aljeron and Angelica Similla.

Pierce said Ms. Montana and the three children are citizens of the Philippines and are thus diverse from the citizenship of Monica H. Semilla.

The lawyer said FirstNet denied the claim of Teresita Montana because the three children of the late Mr. Semilla were not the named beneficiaries.

Pierce said at the present time, there is an actual case and controversy under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because FirstNet may be subject to conflicting claims to the proceeds of the policy should Monica Semilla file an untimely claim or should the three children through an attorney in fact file a claim to the proceeds based upon their being heirs. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 1, 2004

CUC board orders work on new desalination RFP

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Herman P. Sablan has instructed the CUC management to begin working on the issuance of a new project proposal for a desalination plant on Saipan. Sablan, in an interview yesterday, said that when he issued a memorandum to CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta to terminate the RFP for the project-as voted on by the board Monday-he also instructed her "to begin working on the new RFP." "That's the instruction. The process must begin now and make sure that everything is done according to the rules," he said. He said the management is solely responsible for the entire procurement process, including the hiring of an independent evaluator for the project.

NMC collects less than $1M in tuition fees

Northern Marianas College has collected only a little over $800,000 in tuition and other fees from its students in fiscal year 2004. The college aims to get $2.3 million for its operation's budget from the students' tuition for the year, covering fall 2003 and spring 2004. In a March 2004 report to House Education Committee chair Justo Quitugua, NMC acting president Tony Deleon Guerrero said that actual cash collections so far reached $822,078. "Our total anticipated revenues for FY 2003-2004 for fall and spring semester based on actual enrollment is approximately $2.3 million, as compared to actual collections of only $822,078," he said.

Apr. 1, 2005

$225M budget proposed for FY06

The Babauta administration is proposing a $225-million expenditure plan for fiscal year 2006, an amount that is nearly $20 million higher than this fiscal year's level. Almost 50 percent of the proposed budget-$106.9 million-would go to four agencies: the Public School System, which is getting its full requested amount of $50 million; Department of Public Health ($40.2 million); and Department of Public Safety ($11 million); as well as the Department of Corrections ($4.9 million). The remaining budget, $118 million, would be divided among other agencies. Management and Budget director Ed Tenorio said yesterday that the proposed spending plan already reflects a 6.1-percent across-the-board budget cut among departments, totaling some $7.6 million.

MPLA wants Govendo barred from handling suit

Marianas Public Lands Authority board chair Ana Demapan-Castro and the agency's directors yesterday sought the disqualification of Superior Court judge Kenneth Govendo from handling the lawsuit filed by Henry Hofschneider, the MPLA commissioner who is questioning the legality of his termination. Hofschneider's attorney, Sean Frink, said the move to disqualify Govendo is suspicious due to its timing, when the judge was scheduled to hear the arguments related to the former MPLA commissioner's claims. He said the MPLA's move was a "desperate" measure, which may delay the proceeding. MPLA attorney Matthew Smith said that Govendo had written published letters in 2002 that allegedly show his bias against the MPLA and its predecessor, the Marianas Public Lands Corp., and against boards of public corporations that terminate employees and executive directors.

Apr. 1, 2006

'Use Compact money for renovation, not pay hikes'

Rather than use the Compact impact money to implement salary and merit increases for teachers and administrators, principals in the Public School System would rather have the funding used to renovate dilapidated school buildings in the Commonwealth. This was the consensus of the 20 public school principals, according to Dandan Elementary School principal Jonas Barcinas, after PSS federal programs adviser Tim Thornburgh and other PSS officials presented them several options on what to do with the money during Thursday's regular principals' meeting at the Pacific Resource for Education and Learning of the Marianas High School. Barcinas said Thornburgh presented them several options and scenarios as to where they can use the Compact money that was reportedly allocated to PSS by the Fitial administration.

Immigration implements easier system for tourists

The Division of Immigration has implemented a system that makes it easier for tourists to process their papers for an extension of their stay in the Commonwealth. Immigration Director Melvin Grey told the Saipan Tribune that under the new system that he recently implemented, the processing of tourists' extension of their stay would only take five to 10 minutes. "Before, their [tourists] requirement was, if they come in to pay their application fee, they would sit down, and wait if it gets approved. They're told to come back 30 to 45 days later to get the entry permit, the plastic card," Grey said.

Tydingco-Gatewood quizzes CNMI govt on priorities

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood has raised a question whether the CNMI government is more concerned about the speed in which disbursements of Retirement Fund's employee contributions are made rather than the accuracy of the payments.

"Would the Fund be fulfilling its fiduciary duty to all of its members—more specifically those who choose not to terminate their membership—if it processed the disbursements in such a reckless manner?" said Tydingco-Gatewood in one of the many questions he raised in her order issued on Wednesday.

The judge wants to hear answers to many questions she listed in the order that re-set to April 2 at 9:30am the original April 1 emergency motion hearing date in connection with retiree Betty Johnson's lawsuit.

Tydingco-Gatewood noted that, at the Jan. 15 hearing, the Fund expressed concerns that its records were not reliable and resulted in overpayments ranging from $27,000 to $200,000, and some underpayments ranging from $6,000 to $10,000.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that the CNMI government in its response to the emergency motion, seemed less concerned about the matter, stating "errors in calculation can be corrected by adjusting the amount of the second 50 percent payment."

The judge also pointed to Fund acting administrator Lillian Pangelinan's statement in her declaration that "for the majority of Public Law 17-82 withdrawal applications, the Fund has computed the employee contributions through Fiscal Year 2011 and verified the accuracy of nearly half of those applications.

Public Law 17-82 allows the Fund members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions without separating from the government.

Public Law 18-2 compels the Fund to release up to 50 percent of members' contributions within 30 days of submitting a refund application.

Tydingco-Gatewood wanted to know the total amount of disbursements for these applications that have been verified.

"If the Fund can only verify the accuracy of half of the applications and knowing that there has already been overpayments, how certain is Ms. Pangelinan that "Tranche A contains sufficient monies to return the employee contributions of all current employees and inactive DB (Defined Benefit Plan) members?" the judge said.

Pangelinan disclosed that as of the end of February 2013, the Fund has approximately $103,600 in Tranche A.

Tydingco-Gatewood inquired that with the assistance of additional staff from Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, how much longer will the verification process take to complete all applications.

The judge also asked whether compliance with P.L. 17-82 and P.L. 18-02 detract or affect the efforts of the Fund's staff from complying with other requirements associated with the settlement process.

Tydingco wanted to know if in the event all 2,200 active DB Plan members apply to withdraw their employee contributions, are the amounts in Tranche A sufficient to completely satisfy these potential payouts, including interest at the "statutory rate."

Tydingco-Gatewood also pointed to the CNMI government's statement that "permitting current employees to voluntarily terminate their membership is…a necessary step toward stabilizing the Fund."

"Please clarify how the Fund will be stabilized. Is it the CNMI government's position that these voluntary terminations will stabilize the Fund in the long term or the short term?" the judge said.

Johnson filed an emergency motion for clarification of the court's order dated Jan. 18, 2013 with respect to Public Law 18-2.

Johnson, through counsel, alleges that an emergency hearing is necessary because the passage of P.L. 18-2 will affect the viability of the ongoing settlement process.

In the Jan. 18 order, Tydingco-Gatewood said that, in light of the anticipated settlement conference in Johnson's lawsuit, and in the interest of judicial economy, the court will hold all other pending motions in abeyance until the settlement process is completed.

In her lawsuit, Johnson asked the court to order the Fund and the CNMI government to collect Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo's judgment, pay or bring current all CNMI obligations to the Fund, and distribute appropriate retirement benefits.

Betty Johnson named as defendants then Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, the CNMI government and other co-defendants.

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- ALFONSINA M. ARJU and ARJU ARJU, Defendants. : CIVIL ACTION : NO. 12-0005

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 045 A 031, situated in As Matuis, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,123 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 003 dated July 12, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-1038, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 5, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of March, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, **vs.** **VICENTE E. SANTOS and JOSEPHINE F. SANTOS,** Defendants. **Civil Action No. 10-0294** **NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 13th day of June, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **29th day of April, 2013 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 011 G 443, containing an area of 780 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 09 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4176, dated December 3, 1993.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer of his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the tile and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 8th day of March, 2013.

/s/Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation:
Division of Public Health

PROJECT BRABU

STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK STATE PREVENTION ENHANCEMENT

(SPF-SPE) CONFERENCE 2013

Join our conference to listen in on shared and reviewed recommendations received from the CNMI's community districts on substance abuse prevention needs and priority areas.

Save the Date!

FRIDAY
April 5, 2013 – Tinian
April 12, 2013 – Rota
April 26, 2013 – Saipan

This is a FREE event! Registration is limited – call to reserve your seat!

For venue, time and registration information, please contact Project Brabu at the following numbers:

- **Tinian: 433-6572**
- **Rota: 532-9461**
- **Saipan: 236-8703**

A drop of prevention is worth an ocean of cure.

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DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH · HEALTH AND WELL BEING
BRABU

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Don't abandon US troops' allies

When American troops went to war in Iraq and Afghanistan, they relied on local translators, drivers and guides to help them navigate incalculable risks. In exchange, the United States promised, beginning in 2006, to provide visas for those men and women whose work put them in danger. But nearly a decade later, it has yet to fulfill that commitment.

Washington must live up to its obligations. A good place to start would be for Congress and the White House to move swiftly to extend the Special Immigrant Visa program, which is due to expire in the months ahead. Enacted by Congress in 2007, the program provides 6,500 new visas annually for Iraqis and Afghans to resettle in the United States. Yet it has been plagued with problems.

An unwieldy application process, coupled with enhanced security measures designed to weed out possible terrorists, has led to backlogs and long delays. As a result, only a fraction of the available visas have been issued. In fiscal year 2012, for example, fewer than 2,000 visas were granted, according to the U.S. Department of State's data. Overall, only 22 percent of the authorized Iraqi visas and 12 percent of the authorized Afghan visas have been issued since the program began.

The Obama administration has made some efforts to improve the program in Iraq, but it has yet to undertake similar reforms in Afghanistan. It ought to ensure that the application process is streamlined in Baghdad as well as Kabul, where some published reports indicate that as many as 5,000 applications are pending.

The delays in processing applications aren't simply an inconvenience. Many applicants have been waiting years for approval and have had to live in hiding during that period.

Clearly the Special Immigrant Visa program isn't working as Congress intended it to. But allowing it to sunset is not the answer. Washington should renew and reform the program and not leave behind those it pledged to help.

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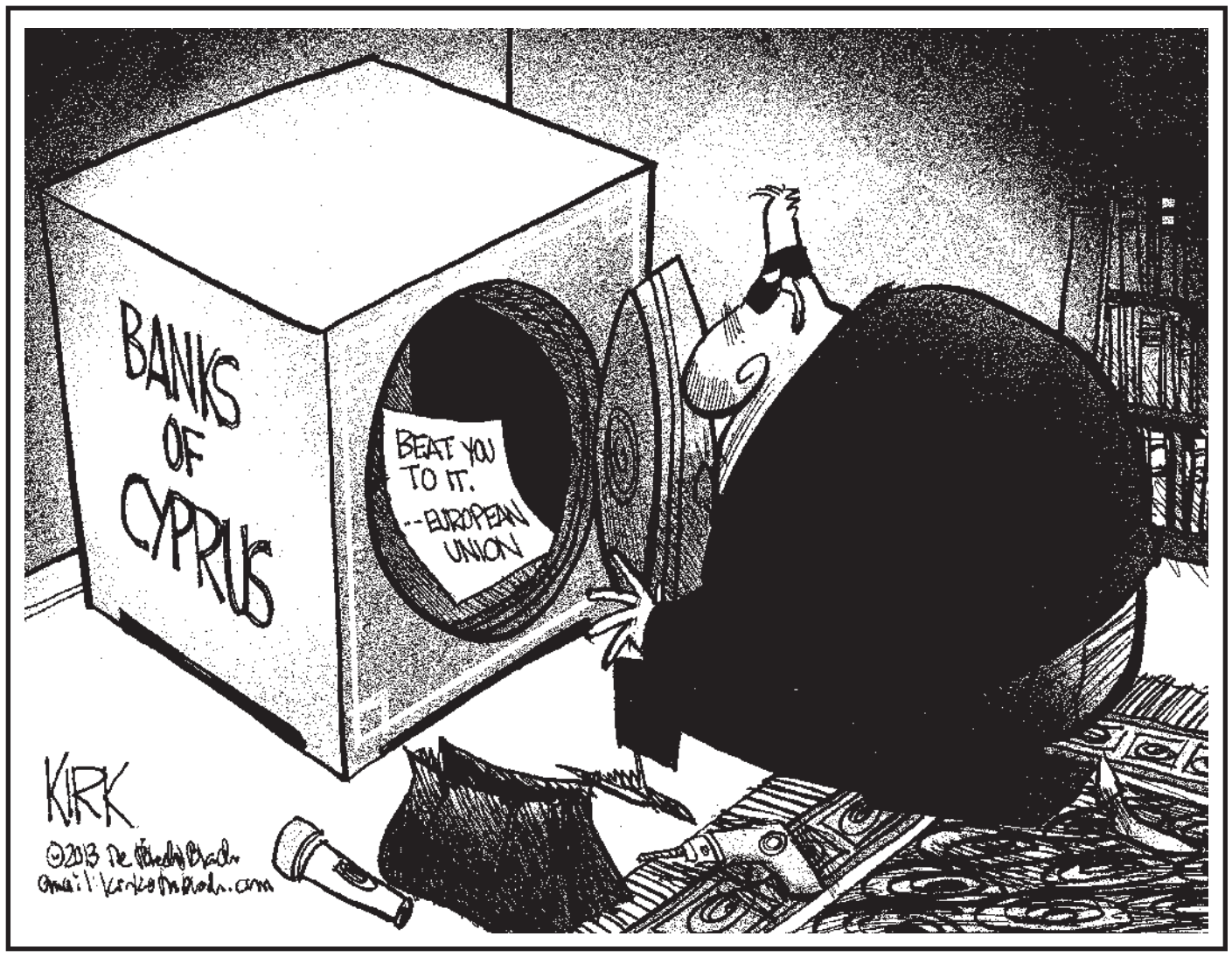


The need to build a local and foreign investment climate

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Recently in my bookcase I discovered a booklet entitled "Foreign Direct Investment in the CNMI" dated Aug. 14, 1998. It was written by Jonathan P. Kazmar, who produced the booklet while doing a graduate internship program at the Northern Marianas College. With curiosity I began to page through it and realized the wealth of information it contained and the immense research that was put into it. As I continued reading it, I noticed several important points which I wish to share with you. His research was made 15 years ago! Have we listened to his suggestions or are we still prodding ahead aimlessly?

One of the major recommendations made is that the Commonwealth must explore alternative industries that we desire in order to achieve stable economic development. In other words, we must decide the industries we are capable of developing and not rely on only tourism as we seem to be doing presently. The government and we, the people of the CNMI, must come to a consensus on what those industries should be. We will never enjoy economic development unless all of the players are involved.

Individual efforts by various government departments or the Legislature will not have much of an impact. Instead we need a coordinated effort from each government department, Legislature, administration, and the private sector—all offering combined incentives to the foreign investors. From this, we must develop a "package" that can be offered to the specific alternative industries that we wish to promote.

Mr. Kazmar states that there is no easy answer or "quick fixes." Altering a few laws will not achieve successful foreign investments by themselves. Simply put, the CNMI must take charge of its own economic development/destiny. Instead of waiting for things to happen, we must make them happen. Therefore we must figure out what we want, put the package together, and go out there and get it.

To begin putting an investment package together, the government should create a specific department with the responsibility of providing foreign investors with up-to-the-minute information and data on the CNMI. Any investor should be able to find answers to his needs simply by applying to that department. This has been discussed many times before but never implemented. Remember I am quoting from Mr. Kazmar's comments made 15 years ago!

I have had potential investors call me and other friends of mine seeking information. Many also wish to understand our unique tax laws. It is difficult to satisfy their questions because the information is difficult to find. A recent example occurred in which I was able to persuade the individual to visit Saipan and see for himself. Finally he came with his family. They were all pleased and as a result he, his family, and his business are in the process of transferring to Saipan. How many more would like to come here that we don't know of?

The CNMI is daily being watched by foreign businesses, economists and investors to see what the CNMI will do in its present situation in relations to CW1, E2, E5, and the other entire possible visas' pertaining to workers and investors. Frankly, we are in a state of confusion not knowing from day to day our next step. Do we wonder why investors have become shy about investing in the CNMI?

Another recommendation Mr. Kazmar makes is that once the Commonwealth determines the type of economic development it desires to pursue, it should create a small budget and then hire a reliable international marketing firm to market our objectives. At the same time, the governor should also set up a trade representative office or board. Its job would be to collectively review any applications, assign a member to investigate the creditability of the applicant. In other words, the CNMI should set up "helping hands" to explain tax incentives and permitting.

There are several investors who have been knocking on our doors for several years, yet we don't really know their real intentions or capability. This we have to correct if we are going to be sincere and successful in attracting truly interested investors. They should not be left to random findings. Remember we have may other countries that are competing with us for them. Marketing is a serious business and we need professionals to help us. We cannot leave the attraction of investors to chance. We must become aggressive and professional.

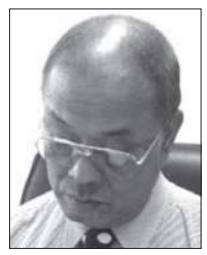
Some of our closest competitors are Guam, Singapore, and Hong Kong. Shortly we will have Palau, the FSM, and the other Micronesian Islands if we don't hurry. We must study the advantages we have to offer and market them heavily. We must also study what our nearest competitors have to offer. In other words, what can we do to make us more investor friendly? I truly believe that we have not truly studied this all important function—marketing for sincere investors.

In addition, we must call in the advice and assistance of the pri-

See INVESTMENT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why derail the CEO's success at CHC?



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Just as the journey turns steady and sturdy in instilling a reliable healthcare system under the leadership of CHC CEO Juan N. Babauta, the "advisory" board hastily imposed its shortsighted decision recommending non-renewal of his contract that expires in July.

The decision has prompted spirited discussion among our people and we have every right to do so given that CHC is the only hospital here. Beyond the political drama of the board, let's dissect the issues on their merit and let you draw your own conclusions at the end of this discussion. Our collective view should be the timely refinement of policy matters solely focused on improving healthcare delivery.

The CEO has done the following, major strides he undertook in quiet fashion knowing he had to start with $5 million on a hospital operation that has enjoyed some $38-40 million in appropriations. He bit the bullet fully wary that the new health corporation started out without a transitional period. In spite of it all, he worked without fanfare and accomplished the following:

A. Raised revenue collection from zero to $32 million since his appointment, a first since the opening of CHC in 1986.

B. Paid back $3 million to MPLT demonstrating that slow the revenue generation may be, CHC has demonstrated it could eventually stand on its own, financially.

C. Decided to establish and secure some $650,000 for the construction of the Kagman Community Health Center (KCHC). Its grand opening is slated for next month (April). It will serve some 15,000 people when it begins operations. Interesting the strong opposition of the board against the building of a direly needed facility.

D. Had CHC certified with Center for Medicaid Services for funds on top of other federal funds given to CHC. What is the meaning of this certification? It grants CHC receipt of funds that generates and supports some 65 percent of CHC's operations. No small feat given that it's a first in the NMI. Why trivialize a major accomplishment? Whatever happened to principle-based reasoning?

E. The U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps (PHCC) was retained to assist CHC from disintegrating that includes saving and protecting the loss of millions of dollars in federal dollars for Medicaid, among others. Furthermore, it assisted the CEO meet deadlines to ensure the continued certification of the local hospital.

F. In fact, PHCC strongly recommended retaining the CEO for it found him most capable to moving the hospital forward in attaining its goal as a fully capable healthcare facility. Otherwise, its recommendation would have been to the contrary.

The proceeding is an explicit accomplishment setting forth opportunities for a triumphant future fulfilling the collective vision for a fully equipped healthcare center. It also sets forth opportunities for policy refinement to the satisfaction of hospital professionals, nurses, ancillary staff, the adolescent board members and most importantly, our people.

Board embraces petty issues

The huge leap in revenue generation of $32 million from zero is itself very impressive. In private corporations, the hospital CEO would have been rewarded hefty six-figure bonus plus preferred stocks. Appalling that the board did the exact opposite—punish him—for doing such superb job proving CHC could eventually stand on its feet, financially.

Interesting the oceans apart in viewpoints on the fate of the CEO. Professionals strongly recommended retaining his services while politicians (board) decided otherwise. Can any of them match the CEO's performance and accomplishments? Why wade in your inability to see the larger picture—forest over the trees?

Appalling how the board has trivialized a highly technical and involved matter reducing it to petty issues. It includes emails from board members to the CEO asking if annual leave has been approved for certain employees or has the annual increase been signed for favored staff people.

It's called micro-management or the special ability to stick to viewing the tree over the forest. Yet, the board blamed the CEO even on time-consuming issues it has imposed so far removed from improving the delivery of healthcare services. Call it petty stuff against substantive issues.

The decision did nothing but inflict instability in the operation of the hospital when the board's sole fiduciary duty is limited to policy matters. It envenomed further instability by the self-infliction of a new though irrelevant role: Micro-management of CHC. It's the political hand it has to have to muscle into the work of the CEO. Sounds grand but highly intrusive and disruptive too. The board's recommendation is capriciously shortsighted at best, ludicrous at worse. Is it hard rallying behind the success of the CEO so the people of these isles could look forward with confidence at their only hospital?

The issue is now before the governor. It's vital that he critically reviews, with a sense of courage and wisdom, the dire need to right the errand recommendation of the board in the interest of ascertaining stability at CHC. It's worth the effort to sustain the stability now in place and in the process of refinement. It's good to ensure we collectively rally behind ascertaining a functional public hospital over acceding to the dysfunctional and adolescent role of the board.

Being mindful of "civic virtue" isn't nearly as exciting a fad as shooting from the hip. But the former is necessary because intellectual honesty requires it. Too, liberty without the requisite virtue quickly devolves into licentiousness. It runs the risk of justifying the silent creation of duties beyond the parameters of the law that established the health corporation.

■■■

Its shortsighted recommendation should have been pigeonholed given the local morale among employees when their paychecks were held hostage until the 11th hour in recent past. Forcing another humongous layer of instability turns morale issues among employees into a see-saw issue. Is this the forte of the board—sink a boat that came close to toppling over—in recent months?

INVESTMENT

From Page 10

vate sector such as the Chamber of Commerce. The government must work closely with the private sector which has many resources to offer. Mr. Kazmar explains that this is what Guam has done. Also I add that we should get the assistance of foreign investors already here who are happy such as our hotels and other businesses.

As we have noted in previous discussions, there are quite a few industries that the CNMI should pursue. One of them is commercial fishing/ port and fish transport facility. I recall years ago seeing many Japanese tuna boats transshipping huge quantities of tuna from Tinian harbor for shipment to Japan. I never learned why this activity died out.

Mr. Kazmar cites quite a few industries that the CNMI citizens or investors could pursue. His main point is that merely giving tax incentives and altering a few laws will not cause of stampede of investors. We must know what we want as industries, package the advantages of those industries, and then market them. Simply put Mr. Kazmar states, "Changing a few tax laws will not make a difference unless efforts are made to market the favorable climate that those changes foster." There are many opportunities but we must decide what we want here.

If anyone is interested in Mr. Kazmar's booklet I am sure it is available at the Northern Marianas College, Business Development Center. His booklet offers solid advice on the many opportunities we have to offer to investors. Repeating myself, I firmly believe that the CNMI is a wonderful place for investors, but we have failed to market ourselves successfully.

I plea with our government to look into how we have been marketing ourselves to potential investors. Being close to huge populations such as China, Korea, Japan, and Russia, we can become a Mecca to them. What is holding us back? Remember Mr. Kazmar's research was done in 1998—15 years ago? Are we going to be where we are today in another 15 years?

The CNMI has huge potentials, but for some strange reason we are failing to cultivate them. There are acres of diamonds waiting to be dug up. LET'S DO IT! LET'S GET OFF OUR BUT'S (excuses)! DO IT!

As a sign along the highway reads: "Asking for Help is a Sign of Strength." We need help. Let's package the investors' needs and they will fulfill our needs.

Have a great week and remember to SMILE! It will be returned with a big SMILE and a feeling of joy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you!

The Bicol Association in Northern Mariana, Inc. would like to thank all the donors that extended their overwhelming support to Bianmi, Inc. in serving cold water and other stuff to hikers along the path going up to Mt. Tapochao.

Thank you to: Micronesian Brokers (CNMI), Inc, WSTCO, Coca Cola Beverage (Micronesia), Inc., J's Restaurant, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, RNV Construction, Pacific Postal Plus, G.R Construction, WIRES, Dolphin Wholesale, Cool Care Aircon, Herman's Bakery, Saipan World Resort friends and employees, Top Development friends and employees, and all other groups, individuals, and members of Bianmi, Inc who unselfishly supported and participated in the said activity.

To everyone, thank you.

Carlito J. Marquez
Bianmi, Inc. secretary

Saipanda to Saipanorama

Let's drop Saipanda. It doesn't justify the reasons for coming to Saipan since we don't have pandas. Instead, let's focus on what we offer tourists.

What we have are panoramic views of our gorgeous island with its blue crystal clear waters, warm white sand beaches, swaying palm trees, plush forests, and picturesque mountains.

Just take in the majestic views of the Philippine Sea and Pacific Ocean, as well as panoramic views from the majesty of Mount Tapochao, the Grotto, Managaha Island, Suicide Cliff, Last Command Post, the plush golf courses, and many others and you'll see what tourists will see and enjoy.

That's what tourists want to see and what they want to be part of during their vacation. That's what tourists will take pictures and videos of and talk about with their families and friends when they return home. Those are the memories that will help draw more tourists to Saipan.

So let's change our slogan from Saipanda to Saipanorama Saipan—an unobstructed and complete majestic view of a gorgeous tropical island. Saipanorama—The majesty of Saipan.

John Griffin
Via email

A second chance

Dear Ms. Lucy Sablan,

I want to thank you for writing your letter to the editor the other day about helping a bird in the road. I too saw that bird in Kagman, and I too, drove on. I read your letter after that day and felt bad that I didn't do anything. I got a second chance to pass God's test this week at the SVRB Post Office.

I was pulling out when I saw an emerald jewel in the road. This totot was alive and wobbly. I thought of you and cursed my conscience. I stopped my car and cautiously approached. I gently scooped the green gem into my hands. There was only a little blood spit up on the road, also fresh. I racked my brain for what the letter said to do and decided I would head home and look up the letter online and call the proper authorities. (It was 4:45 and I was hosting a small gathering at my home at 5 and I was ALREADY beyond late. =) I jumped in my car while holding the little bird in my left hand.

It was the most beautiful thing I had ever held and seen. The brilliance of the feather's hues enraptured me, emerald and magenta, soft and fluffy. The bird allowed me to drive all the way home to Idenni before it hopped out of my hand to the floor of the car. All this time while driving, I RESTRAINED from using my cell phone to take a picture just to post it on Facebook.

Funny thing is, I never got to take that picture. By the time I got home to Idenni, the bird must have come out of its stupor, because it picked itself up and flew away, right out of my parked car. Despite missing the picture, I had such a good feeling inside. If I had not removed the bird from the road, it could have been smooshed so easily. I also was proud of myself for not using my cell phone while driving. So thank you Ms. Lucy Sablan for inspiring me to not just drive by.

Leila Staffler
Idenni

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲85° ▼78°	▲88° ▼76°	▲89° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

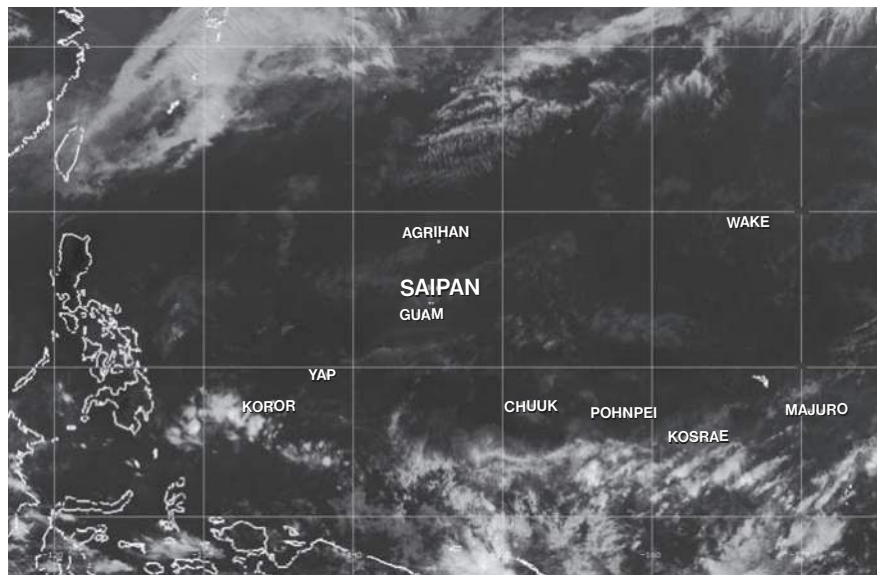
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲74	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲67	▼40
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲75	▼72
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼66
London	Sunny	▲43	▼32
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼81
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼69
New York	Showers	▲55	▼45
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼53
Paris	Sunny	▲48	▼30
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼51
Rome	Showers	▲59	▼52
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼49
San Francisco	Showers	▲62	▼54
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼44
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼52
Washington, DC	Showers	▲57	▼48

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers across the Marianas within 75 miles of a line from 14N144E to 16N147E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Republic of Palau within 100 miles of a line from 7N130E to 4N140E. Converging trade winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 5N from 147E to 150E and south of Pohnpei and Kosrae within 125 miles of a line from 3N155E to 2N172E. A trade-wind surge east of the Marshall Islands is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Majuro east of a line from 1N173E to 4N173E to 7N177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:09 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
11:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:12 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:19 PM	10:00 AM
Tuesday		11:00 AM
Wednesday	12:17 AM	12:00 PM
Thursday	1:12 AM	12:59 PM
Friday	2:02 AM	1:57 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 8, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z6063	3:30am	7:20am	1, 5
0Z119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
0Z604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU7108	3:50am	7:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)			
XF1734	11:55am	5:10pm	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:40am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	2, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
DL287/173	6:00am	10:35pm	1, 3, 6 via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:45pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:35am	4:10am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:55am	11:30am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
0Z605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
0Z6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	4, 7
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU7107	7:40pm	2:50am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
XF1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:15am+1	2, 4, 7 via NRT
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5072	10:15pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:35pm	7:55am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

MCS' Victoria Camacho joins honor society

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The National Society of High School Scholars has announced that Mount Carmel School student Victoria Camacho has been selected for membership with the organization after demonstrating superior academic excellence in her studies.

Camacho is the daughter of MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero and Northern Marianas College Liberal Arts program coordinator Velma Deleon Guerrero.

The National Society of High School Scholars recognizes top scholars and invites only those students who have achieved superior academic excellence. The announcement was made by NSHSS founder and chairman Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.

"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that Victoria has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," said Nobel, adding that Victoria is now a member of a unique community of scholars.

According to the society's president James Lewis, it is the mission of the organization to help students like Victoria build on their academic successes and enhance their skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community.

"Our vision is to build a dynamic organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunities," stated Lewis.

Membership in NSHSS entitles qualified students to a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, members-only resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, online forums, personalized recognition items, and publicity honors.

Formed in 2002, The National Society of High School Scholars recognizes academic excellence at the high school level. Currently there are more than 800,000 Society members in over 160 countries.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Victoria Camacho, center, is inducted into Mount Carmel School's Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Honor Society. On hand to recognize her were her father, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, and her mother, Velma Deleon Guerrero.

NMC Career Fair on April 18

As part of its efforts to connect students and community members with prospective employers, the Northern Marianas College will be hosting its annual Career Fair on April 18, 2013. All community members are invited to attend this free event.

The Career Fair, which will be held from 9am to 12pm at NMC's Building D, will feature several private sector companies, non-profit organizations, and government agencies who are looking to fill key vacancies within their organizations.

To prepare participants for the Career Fair and for the realities of job hunting, the College's Career Center has also organized several career preparation workshops that are free and open to the public. The schedule of these workshops follows:

April 9 Tuesday (Student Center)
11am to 12pm: On Campus Employment Opportunities Exhibit
1pm to 2pm: Resume Writing

April 10 Wednesday (Student Center)
10am to 12pm: Free Health Screening
12pm to 1pm: One-on-one with Dr. James Hofschneider
1pm to 2pm: Dress for Success and Interview Prep

April 11 Thursday (Room D1)
11am to 12pm: Police and Fire Panel and Exhibit
1pm to 2pm: Employers' Expectations

April 16 Tuesday (Student Center)
11am to 12pm: Protect Your Environment with MINA
1pm to 2pm: Customer Service

April 17 Wednesday (Student Center)
11am to 12pm: Fair Labor Standards Act
1pm to 2pm: Handling Your Finances

April 18 Thursday (Room D1)
9am to 12pm: Career Fair Day

Already, the following companies have confirmed their participation during the Career Fair activities: Department of Public Safety Fire, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, U.S. Department of Labor, Younis Art Studio, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Iridescent, and Bank of Hawaii. Many more will be confirmed soon.

The NMC Career Fair committee is inviting other interested employers who are interested in showcasing job opportunities to contact Neda Camacho at the NMC Career Services Department (234-5498 ext. 1313 or e-mail nedac@nmcnet.edu). Space is limited so employers are encouraged to contact the College as soon as possible.

The Career Fair activities are supported with funds from the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant Program. ***(PR)***

Chamber general membership luncheon on April 3

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its April general membership luncheon meeting this Wednesday, April 3, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Luncheon begins at 11:30am, and the meeting begins at 12noon sharp. Luncheon is $20 for members and $30 for guests and the public.

Deleon Guerrero

Speaking to the assembled SCC membership will be CNMI Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero. Deleon Guerrero will address the DPS' efforts aimed at the local tourism industry. The Chamber, as well as the Marianas Visitors Authority, has identified public safety as critical to tourism marketing campaigns, as well as being foremost on the minds of the over half a million visitors we will receive in 2013.

Also addressing the luncheon audience at the Hyatt's Sandcastle ballroom will be Shelley Kremer from Micronesia Bird Conservation. Kremer will be giving a brief presentation entitled "The Value of a Tree".

Updates on upcoming Chamber events will be provided, including the April 5 SCC Mixer, and the April 6 SCC High School Student Workshop, "I'm Graduating Soon, Skills for College and Beyond." ***(PR)***

Performers wanted for 2013 MMAC

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer committee is inviting all musicians, bands, dancers, and other entertainers to perform live at the 2013 MMAC—the largest annual cancer fundraising event in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"We are calling on all performers who are interested in volunteering their time to show their support in the fight against cancer by performing live at the 2013 MMAC. This overnight event will take place from 6pm on Friday, April 26, to 6am on Saturday, April 27. We have limited slots available on a first-come, first-served basis so please contact us as soon as possible to confirm your spot," said 2013 MMAC entertainment committee chairman L.J. Castro.

"Thousands of participants attend the MMAC every year so this is your chance to show your support in the battle against cancer by performing live for our community," said Castro. To register or for more information call Castro at 483-1027 or email ljmamis@gmail.com.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the largest cancer fundraising activity in the Northern Mariana Islands. It is the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led non-profit 501(c)3 organization that ensures all funds raised are spent entirely in the CNMI on cancer awareness and prevention programs, cancer patient support services and other cancer-related activities.

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on April 26-27 from 6pm to 6am at Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao. The 2013 MMAC is brought to you by title sponsors Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., IT&E, Joeten Charitable Foundation, Marianas Variety, Sorensen Media Group and Take Care/FHP. Special thanks to major sponsors Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, Hopwood Junior High School, McDonald's of Saipan, PHI Pharmacy and Traders Insurance Co. For more information on the MMAC call 989-1987, email emanuel.borja@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bereaved Families Support Group meeting on April 4

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter in Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, April 4, from 6pm to 7:30 pm in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, call Jill Derickson at 287-5337 or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

Åmot Måkpung Åmku' yan Åmot Tininu now available

The Inetnon Åmot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Falúw says that ready-to-be-boiled, packaged Åmot Måkpung Åmku' yan Åmot Tininu is available at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center at 1213 on Capitol Hill Road, across the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office. A $10 donation per package is accepted. The office hours are Monday to Friday, from 10am to 5pm. For more information, call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

UOG to host Marianas History Conference

The 2013 Marianas History Conference, "One Archipelago, Many Stories: Integrating Our Narratives," will be held in Guam on Aug. 30-31, 2013. Abstracts for papers and posters may be submitted at guampedia.com by April 3, 2013. The Guampedia website also accepts conference registration with an early registration fee of $25 or $10 for students with a valid ID. The number of registrants will be capped at 220. Late registration is $40.

For more information, visit www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-marianas-history-conference, or contact Dr. Anne Perez Hattori (ahattori@uguam.uog.edu) or Dr. Michael Clement (mclement@uguam.uog.edu). ***(UOG)***

Business

Little Cyprus thumbs its nose at EU 'bullies'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—The moment word broke that Cypriot lawmakers in Parliament had voted down a bailout deal that would have raided everyone's savings to prop up a collapsing banking sector, a huge cheer rose up from hundreds of demonstrators gathered outside that echoed through the building's corridors.

Many relished it as a kind of David-against-Goliath moment—a country of barely a million people standing up to the will of Europe's behemoths who wanted it to swallow a very bitter pill to fix its broken-down economy.

"Shame on Europe for trying to snatch people's savings. It's a mistaken decision that will have repercussions on other economies and banking systems," said protester Panayiotis Violettis. "People have stopped trusting the EU which should be our protector."

Fighting back is not a new experience for Cypriots. From the 1950s guerrilla war against British rule to Greek Cypriots' defiant refusal in 2004 to accept a U.N.-backed peace plan to reunite the island, they are used to holding their own against big opponents.

Just as quickly as Cyprus' euro area partners decided that a deposit grab was the only way out, so Cypriots decided their tiny island was ground zero in Europe's new financial scorched earth policy and that it had to be resisted at all costs.

AP

A man carrying soft drinks as people use the ATM machines in central capital Nicosia, Cyprus, Friday, March 22, 2013. Banks on this island nation have already been shut for a week.

"Better die on your feet than live on your knees," one placard among the throngs of protesters read. Another said: "It starts with us, it ends with you" as a warning to other Europeans that their savings were no longer safe.

Politicians seized on the public mood. "This is another form of colonization," Greens lawmaker Giorgos Perdikis spouted in Parliament. "We won't allow passage of something that essentially subjugates the Cypriot people for many, many generations.

"Unfortunately, instead of support and solidarity, our partners offered blackmail and bitterness," said Parliamentary Speaker Yiannakis Omirou. The indignant leader of the country's Orthodox Christian Church, Archbishop Chrysostomos II, added: "This isn't the Europe that we believed in when we joined. We believed we would receive some kind of help, some support."

The country's foreign minister, Ioannis Kasoulides, even acknowledged that Cypriot negotiators had contemplated exiting the euro instead of accepting their euro area partners' terms.

In the end, Cyprus accepted a deal that would safeguard small savers but where depositors with more than 100,000 euros in the country's two most troubled banks would lose a big chunk of their money.

Nonetheless, Europe was stunned at the sheer brazenness. How could a pipsqueak country on Europe's fringes thumb its nose to continental juggernauts Germany and France and dare to turn down a deal meant to save it from economic chaos?

It's not the first time the country has pushed back in defiance, even against what many would consider as insurmountable odds. The island's majority Greek Cypriots fought former colonial ruler Britain to a draw in a four-year guerrilla campaign in the 1950s that aimed for union with Greece. That conflict ended in the country's independence in 1960.

Bank of Cyprus big savers to lose up to 60 percent

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Big depositors at Cyprus' largest bank may be forced to accept losses of up to 60 percent, far more than initially estimated under the European rescue package to save the country from bankruptcy, officials said Saturday.

Deposits of more than 100,000 euros ($128,000) at the Bank of Cyprus will lose 37.5 percent in money that will be converted into bank shares, according to a central bank statement. In a second raid on these accounts, depositors also could lose up to 22.5 percent more, depending on what experts determine is needed to prop up the bank's reserves. The experts will have 90 days to figure that out.

The remaining 40 percent of big deposits at the Bank of Cyprus will be "temporarily frozen for liquidity reasons," but continue to accrue existing levels of interest plus another 10 percent, the central bank said.

The savings converted to bank shares would theoretically allow depositors to eventually recover their losses. But the shares now hold little value and it's uncertain when—if ever—the shares will regain a value equal to the depositors' losses.

Emergency laws passed last week empower Cypriot authorities to take these actions.

Cyprus' Finance Minister Michalis Sarris said the measures were taken to put the Bank of Cyprus on a solid footing.

"We suffered a serious blow without doubt ... but we now have a bank which is reformed and ready to assume its role in the Cypriot economy," the state-run Cyprus News Agency quoting him as saying.

Analysts said Saturday that imposing bigger losses on Bank of Cyprus customers could further squeeze already crippled businesses as Cyprus tries to rebuild its banking sector in exchange for the international rescue package.

Sofronis Clerides, an economics professor at the University of Cyprus, said: "Most of the damage will be done to businesses which had their money in the bank" to pay suppliers and employees. "There's quite a difference between a 30 percent loss and a 60 percent loss." With businesses shrinking, Cyprus could be dragged down into an even deeper recession, he said.

Dell opens window on efforts to sell company

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Dell `s financial advisers tried to persuade 71 potential bidders to make an offer for the troubled personal computer maker before two of them emerged to challenge a proposed $24.4 billion deal with the company's founder, according to documents filed Friday.

The wide-ranging efforts to ignite a bidding contest for Dell Inc. are among the morsels of new information contained in a voluminous recitation of the events that have thrust the world's third largest PC maker on to the auction block.

The bidding has boiled down to a group led by company CEO Michael Dell and Silver Lake Partners vying against separate alternative proposals submitted during the past week by buyout specialist Blackstone Group LP and billionaire investor Carl Icahn. The other potential suitors contacted by Dell's financial advisers weren't identified in Friday's disclosures.

For now Dell's board is standing behind its nearly two-month old agreement to sell the Round Rock, Texas, company to Michael Dell and Silver Lake for $24.4 billion, or $13.65 per share. But the board is still holding out the possibility that it might side with one of the offers from Blackstone or Icahn once they finalize their bids in the next few weeks. Blackstone has pledged to offer more than $14.65 per share for most of Dell Inc.'s outstanding stock while Icahn says he plans to pay $15 per share for up to 58 percent of the company's outstanding stock.

Dell hopes to complete a sale by Aug. 2, although it still hasn't even set a date for a shareholder meeting to approve whichever deal gets the board's final blessing.

Friday's regulatory filing provided Dell's board with its best chance yet to convince shareholders that it has gone to great lengths to ensure the company is sold for the highest possible price, given the challenges facing PC makers at a time sales of desktop and laptop machines have been declining as more people embrace smartphones and tablets.

Business, labor get deal on worker program

WASHINGTON (AP)—Big business and labor have struck a deal on a new low-skilled worker program, removing the biggest hurdle to completion of sweeping immigration legislation allowing 11 million illegal immigrants eventual U.S. citizenship, labor and Senate officials said Saturday.

The agreement was reached in a phone call late Friday night with AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, U.S. Chamber of Commerce head Tom Donohue, and Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, who's been mediating the dispute.

The deal resolves disagreements over wages for the new workers and which industries would be included. Those disputes had led talks to break down a week ago, throwing into doubt whether Schumer and seven other senators crafting a comprehensive bipartisan immigration bill would be able to complete their work as planned.

The deal must still be signed off on by the other senators working with Schumer, including Republicans John McCain of Arizona and Marco Rubio of Florida, but that's expected to happen, according to a person with knowledge of the talks who spoke on condition of anonymity. With the agreement in place, the senators are expected to unveil their legislation the week of April 8. Their measure would secure the border, crack down on employers, improve legal immigration and create a 13-year pathway to citizenship for the millions of illegal immigrants already here.

It's a major second-term priority of President Barack Obama's and would usher in the most dramatic changes to the nation's faltering immigration system in more than two decades.

"The strength of the consensus across America for just reform has afforded us the momentum needed to forge an agreement in principle to develop a new type of employer visa system," Trumka said in a statement late Saturday. "We expect that this new program, which benefits not just business, but everyone, will promote long overdue reforms by raising the bar for existing programs."

Nation

Patients of Oklahoma doctor line up for tests

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Hundreds of patients of an Oklahoma oral surgeon accused of unsanitary practices showed up at a health clinic Saturday, looking to find out whether they were exposed to hepatitis or the virus that causes AIDS.

Letters began going out Friday to 7,000 patients who had seen Dr. W. Scott Harrington during the past six years, warning them that poor hygiene at his clinics created a public health hazard. The one-page letter said how and where to seek treatment but couldn't explain why Harrington's allegedly unsafe practices went on for so long.

Testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and the virus that causes AIDS began at 10 a.m. Saturday, but many arrived early and stood through torrential downpours. The Tulsa Health Department said 420 people were tested Saturday at its North Regional Health and Wellness Center. Screenings resume Monday morning.

Kari Childress, 38, showed up at 8:30 a.m., mainly because she was nervous.

"I just hope I don't have anything," said Childress, who had a tooth extracted at one of Harrington's two clinics five months ago. "You trust and believe in doctors to follow the rules, and that's the scariest part."

Inspectors found a number of problems at the doctor's clinics in Tulsa and suburban Owasso, according to the state Dentistry Board, which filed a 17-count complaint against Harrington pending an April 19 license revocation hearing. According to the complaint, needles were reinserted into drug vials after being used on patients, expired drugs were found in a medicine cabinet and dental assistants, not the doctor, administered sedatives to patients.

AP

This Thursday, March 28, 2013 photo shows the dental offices of Dr. Scott Harrington at 2111 S. Atlanta Place in Tulsa, Okla.

One patient, Orville Marshall, said he didn't meet Harrington until after he had two wisdom teeth pulled about five years ago at the Owasso clinic. A nurse inserted the IV for his anesthesia; Harrington was there when Marshall came to.

"It's just really scary. It makes you doubt the whole system, especially with how good his place looked," said Marshall, 37.

An instrument set reserved for use on patients with infectious diseases was rusty, preventing its effective sterilization, and the office autoclave—a pressurized cleaner—was used improperly and hadn't been certified as effective in at least six years, according to the complaint.

Dr. Matt Messina, a Cleveland dentist and a consumer adviser for the American Dental Association, said creating a safe and hygienic environment is "one of the fundamental requirements" before any dental procedure can be performed.

"It's not hard. It just takes effort," he said.

Weekly autoclave testing can be performed for less than $400 annually, according to the website of the Autoclave Testing Services of Pearl River, New York.

Autoclaves typically can be purchased for $1,000 to $8,000, depending on their size and features. And an average dental practice can expect to pay more than $40,000 a year in equipment, tools and supplies alone, according to several dental organizations.

Attempts to reach Harrington have been unsuccessful. No one answered the door Thursday at his Oklahoma home, which property records show is worth more than $1 million. His practice a few miles away, in a tony section of Tulsa where plastic surgeons operate and locals congregate at bistros and stores such as Saks Fifth Avenue, has a fair-market value of around $851,000.

Property and tax records show Harrington owns another residence in Carefree, Ariz., in an area of upscale homes tucked into in the boulder-strewn mountains north of Phoenix.

Nobody was at home Saturday at the low-slung, 1950s-style vacation home, across from the Boulders Resort. Neighbors said they had seen a lot of activity at the home in recent weeks.

Harrington's malpractice lawyer, Jim Secrest II, did not respond to phone messages left Thursday or Friday. A message at Harrington's Tulsa office said it was closed and an answering service referred callers to the Tulsa Health Department.

Suzy Horton, an old friend of Harrington's, said she can't believe the allegations about the man who removed two of her teeth in the early `90s. Horton's ex-husband sold Harrington his home in Carefree—a home where she once lived.

"I've been to dentists my whole life, so I know what a professional office looks like," Horton, who now lives in Phoenix, said in a telephone interview. "His was just as professional as anybody."

Horton hasn't seen Harrington in years, but she said he has sent her a Christmas card and wreath every year since her 1999 divorce.

"It was a long time ago, so I suppose anything can change, but the kind of person they're portraying in the news is not the kind of person who sends you a Christmas" card, she said.

Texas district attorney, wife found dead at home

KAUFMAN, Texas (AP)—A North Texas county district attorney and his wife were found dead in their home Saturday, two months after one of his assistant district attorneys was shot to death in a parking lot a block from his office.

Police, FBI agents, Texas Rangers and Kaufman County sheriff's deputies were investigating the deaths of county District Attorney Mike McLelland and his wife, Cynthia, sheriff's Lt. Justin Lewis said late Saturday.

Lewis said he couldn't discuss the investigation in further detail, including how the couple died and whether authorities believe their deaths are linked to the Jan. 31 fatal shooting of Mark Hasse, an assistant Kaufman County district attorney.

The Dallas Morning News reported that Police Chief Chris Aulbaugh said the McLellands had been shot in their home and that although investigators didn't know if their deaths and Hasse's were related, they couldn't discount it.

"It is a shock," Aulbaugh said, according to the paper. "It was a shock with Mark Hasse, and now you can just imagine the double shock and until we know what happened, I really can't confirm that it's related but you always have to assume until it's proven otherwise."

Sam Rosander, who lives in the same unincorporated area of Kaufman County as the McLellands, told The Associated Press that sheriff's deputies were parked in the district attorney's driveway for about a month after Hasse was killed.

Aulbaugh said recently that the FBI was checking to see if Hasse's killing could be related to the March 19 killing of Colorado Department of Corrections head Tom Clements, who was gunned down after answering the doorbell at his home.

Evan Spencer Ebel, a former Colorado inmate and white supremacist who authorities believe killed Clements and a pizza deliveryman two days earlier, was gunned down in a March 21 shootout with Texas deputies about 100 miles from Kaufman.

Aulbaugh said after Ebel was killed that the investigation into whether the Hasse's and Clements' deaths were linked was routine for attacks that appear similar. Both targeted law enforcement officials. Authorities have investigated whether Hasse's death could be linked to a white supremacist gang.

Aulbaugh had said there was no indication that Hasse, 57, had been afraid he might be killed.

Hasse was chief of the organized crime unit when he was an assistant prosecutor in Dallas County in the 1980s, and he handled similar cases in Kaufman County, 33 miles southeast of Dallas.

McLelland had said Hasse was one of 12 attorneys on his staff, all of whom handle hundreds of cases at a time.

"Anything anybody can think of, we're looking through," McLelland said after the assistant prosecutor was killed.

Nev. crash kills 5 in Calif. family; teen arrested

By MARTIN GRIFFITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Five members of a Southern California family were killed Saturday when their van was rear-ended by an 18-year-old driver who was later arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence, authorities said.

The dead were among seven family members who were in the van, authorities said. The other two—the 40-year-old female driver and a 15-year-old boy—were hospitalized in critical condition.

Jean Soriano of California was booked into the Clark County Detention Center after he was treated and released at University Medical Center in Las Vegas, Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper Loy Hixson said.

The crash happened at about 3 a.m. on Interstate 15 near the Utah line. Soriano's sport utility vehicle struck the van from behind, causing both vehicles to spin out of control and roll near Mesquite, some 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas, investigators said.

A 23-year-old passenger in Soriano's SUV was treated at the hospital and released.

Authorities believe Soriano was returning from a visit with family in Utah to his home in California at the time of the wreck, Hixson said. They didn't immediately release his hometown or the names or hometowns of the victims.

Beer bottles were found in the SUV, Hixson said, and troopers performed a blood-alcohol test on Soriano at the hospital. The results won't be known for a couple of weeks, he said.

Hixson said only two of the seven people in the van were wearing seatbelts. The five who were not buckled in were ejected, but one survived.

"Unfortunately, so many in the van weren't wearing seatbelts, and some might have survived had they been wearing them," Hixson said. "We see it so many times where people can survive simply by having a seatbelt on."

The van was carrying a couple, their children and some aunts and uncles, he said. Killed were three men in their 40s, a teenage female and an adult female.

ACROSS THE NATION

Authorities: $600M scheme incubated in NC town

LEXINGTON, N.C. (AP)—In the hardware store on South Main Street, the owner pulled Caron Myers aside to tell her about the best thing to happen in years to this once-thriving furniture and textile town. Did she hear about the online company ZeekRewards? For a small investment, she could make a fortune. He had invested. So had his grandsons. And so were more and more people in Lexington, including doctors, lawyers and accountants. Skeptical at first, Myers drove a few blocks to the company's one-story, red-brick office and spotted a line of people circling the building. She was sold, and plunked down several thousand dollars. But months later, Myers, like hundreds of thousands of others, discovered the truth: ZeekRewards was a scam. "I was duped," Meyer said. "We trusted this man. The community is still in shock."

LA police ID suspect in girl's abduction case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police said Saturday they are looking for a transient in the kidnapping of a 10-year-old girl who was snatched from her San Fernando Valley home before dawn last week and abandoned hours later in front of a hospital. Investigators identified 30-year-old Tobias Dustin Summers as a suspect in the case but couldn't elaborate on the motive or what led them to him. Police don't know if the girl was targeted but said they don't believe Summers had a connection to her family. "We have no information that the family knew this individual or that the individual knew any members of the family," Los Angeles Police Deputy Chief Kirk Albanese said.

Asia

NKorea says it is in a 'state of war' with SKorea

AP

A visitor looks at North Korean territory at the unification observation post near the border village of Panmunjom, that has separated the two Koreas since the Korean War, in Paju, north of Seoul, South Korea, Saturday, March 30, 2013.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea warned Seoul on Saturday that the Korean Peninsula had entered "a state of war" and threatened to shut down a border factory complex that's the last major symbol of inter-Korean cooperation.

Analysts say a full-scale conflict is extremely unlikely, noting that the Korean Peninsula has remained in a technical state of war for 60 years. But the North's continued threats toward Seoul and Washington, including a vow to launch a nuclear strike, have raised worries that a misjudgment between the sides could lead to a clash.

In Washington, the White House said Saturday that the United States is taking seriously the new threats by North Korea but also noted Pyongyang's history of "bellicose rhetoric."

North Korea's threats are seen as efforts to provoke the new government in Seoul, led by President Park Geun-hye, to change its policies toward Pyongyang, and to win diplomatic talks with Washington that could get it more aid. North Korea's moves are also seen as ways to build domestic unity as young leader Kim Jong Un strengthens his military credentials.

On Thursday, U.S. military officials revealed that two B-2 stealth bombers dropped dummy munitions on an uninhabited South Korean island as part of annual defense drills that Pyongyang sees as rehearsals for invasion. Hours later, Kim ordered his generals to put rockets on standby and threatened to strike American targets if provoked.

North Korea said in a statement Saturday that it would deal with South Korea according to "wartime regulations" and would retaliate against any provocations by the United States and South Korea without notice.

Slim chance of life after Tibet mudslide buries 83

BEIJING (AP)—Emergency crews in Tibet slogged through pileups of earth up to 30 meters (100 feet) deep Sunday after a massive mudslide at a gold mine buried 83 workers, and authorities said chances were slim for finding any survivors.

The disaster has spotlighted the extensive mining activities in the mountainous Chinese region of Tibet and sparked questions about whether mining activities have been excessive and destroyed the region's fragile ecosystem.

The workers were buried early Friday when mud, rock and debris swept through the mine in Gyama village in Maizhokunggar county and covered an area measuring around 4 square kilometers (1.5 square miles), about 70 kilometers (45 miles) east of the regional capital Lhasa.

By Sunday morning, searchers had found only two bodies and were searching for the remaining 81 missing workers, said an official of the Tibet regional government in Lhasa who gave only his surname, Jiang. The Communist Party deputy secretary for Tibet, W. Yingjie, was quoted by the state Xinhua News Agency as saying chances were slim of finding anyone alive.

The miners worked for Huatailong Mining Development, a subsidiary of the China National Gold Group Corp., a state-owned enterprise and the country's largest gold producer. Beijing says the cause of the disaster is yet to be fully investigated, although state media say the mudslide was caused by a "natural disaster," without giving specifics.

Filipino devotees reenact crucifixion of Christ

SAN PEDRO CUTUD, Philippines (AP)—Devotees in villages in the northern Philippines took part in a bloody annual ritual to mark Good Friday, a celebration that mixes Roman Catholic devotion and Filipino folk beliefs and sees some reenact the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

The crucified devotees spent several minutes nailed to crosses in Pampanga province while thousands of tourists watched and took photos of the spectacle, which the church discourages. Earlier in the day, hooded male penitents trudged through the province's villages under the blazing sun while flagellating their bleeding backs with makeshift whips. Others carried wooden crosses to dramatize Christ's sacrifice.

Devotees undergo the hardships in the belief that such extreme sacrifices are a way to atone for their sins, attain miracle cures for illnesses or give thanks to God.

Alex Laranang, a 58-year-old vendor who was the first to be nailed to a cross Friday, said he was doing it "for good luck and for my family to be healthy."

It was the 27th crucifixion for sign painter Ruben Enaje, 52, one of the most popular penitents from San Pedro Cutud village. He began his yearly rite after surviving a fall from a building.

Enaje screamed in pain as men dressed as Roman soldiers hammered stainless steel nails into his palms and feet. A wireless microphone carried his voice to loudspeakers for everyone watching to hear.

World

Syrian rebels enter strategic Aleppo neighborhood

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian rebels pushed into a strategic neighborhood in the northern city of Aleppo after days of heavy clashes, seizing control of at least part of the hilltop district and killing a pro-government cleric captured in the fighting, activists and state media said Saturday.

There were conflicting reports about the scale of the advance into the Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood by rebel forces battling to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad. But the gains marked the biggest shift in the front lines in the embattled city in months.

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and a former commercial hub, has been a key battleground in the country's civil war since rebels launched an offensive there in July, seizing several districts before the fighting largely settled into a bloody stalemate.

The Aleppo Media Center opposition group and Aleppo-based activist Mohammed Saeed said rebels seized full control of Sheikh Maqsoud late Friday.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, however, said rebels took only the eastern part of the neighborhood, and reported heavy fighting there Saturday.

Syria's state news agency SANA said government troops "eliminated scores of terrorists" in other parts of Aleppo mainly in the neighborhoods of Sheikh Said, Masaken Hanano and Bustan al-Bacha. SANA did not mention the fighting in Sheikh Maqsoud.

Sheikh Maqsoud, which is predominantly inhabited by minority Kurds, is located on a hill on the northern edge of the city. The neighborhood used to be known as "Our Lady's Mountain" and is considered one of the most strategic locations in the city because it overlooks much of Aleppo.

Activists predicted that regime forces would launch counterattacks to try to retake the area because if rebels keep holding Sheikh Maqsoud it will be easy for them to target regime-held areas with mortar shells.

The media center and the Observatory both reported that residents were fleeing the neighborhood to safer areas. The media center said regime tanks around the neighborhood were shelling the area.

An amateur video showed about two dozen gunmen standing in front of a building owned by the Syrian government. In the video, one of the gunmen claims that rebels and their "Kurdish brothers liberated Sheikh Maqsoud of Assad's criminal gangs and shabiha" or pro-government militiamen.

The video appeared genuine and corresponded to other reporting that The Associated Press did on events depicted in the footage.

Pope presides over trimmed Easter Vigil service

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis celebrated a trimmed back Easter Vigil service Saturday after having reached out to Muslims and women during a Holy Week in which he began to put his mark on the Catholic Church.

Francis processed into a darkened and silent St. Peter's Basilica at the start of the service, in which the faithful recall the period between Christ's crucifixion on Good Friday and resurrection on Easter Sunday.

One of the most dramatic moments of the Easter Vigil service that usually follows—when the pope would share the light of his candle with others until the entire basilica twinkled—was shortened this year as were some of the Old Testament readings.

The Vatican has said these provisions were in keeping with Francis' aim to not have his Masses go on too long. The Easter Vigil service under Benedict XVI would typically run nearly three hours. The new pope has made clear he prefers his Masses short and to the point: he was even caught checking his watch during his March 19 installation ceremony. Saturday was no different: The vigil ended just shy of 2.5 hours.

A trimmed-back vigil—and one that started earlier than usual—was just one of the novelties of this Holy Week under an Argentine Jesuit pope who just two weeks ago stunned the world by emerging from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica after his election with a simple "Brothers and sisters, good evening."

He riled traditionalists but endeared himself to women and liberals by washing and kissing the feet of two young girls during a Holy Thursday Mass at a juvenile detention center in Rome, when the rite usually calls for only men to participate. A day later, Francis reached out with friendship to "Muslim brothers and sisters" during a Good Friday procession dedicated to the suffering of Christians from terrorism, war and religious fanaticism in the Middle East.

In his homily Saturday, Francis kept his message simple and tied to the liturgical readings, recalling how Jesus' disciples found his tomb empty a day after his death and were surprised and confused.

"Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness, and that is where death is," he said. "Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life!"

He later baptized four men, part of the Easter Vigil ritual.

Just a few hours after the vigil ends, Francis on Sunday will celebrate Easter Mass and deliver his "Urbi et Orbi" speech, Latin for "To the city and the world." Usually the pope also issues Easter greetings in dozens of languages.

WORLD BRIEFS

Suicide bomber, landmines rock northern Mali

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—A suicide bomber attempted to force his way past the defenses of the city of Timbuktu on Saturday, detonating himself on its outskirts, while a landmine exploded in another part of northern Mali, killing a total of three, officials said. The twin attacks come as French President Francois Hollande told French television that French forces had attained their objectives in Mali, a country which until January had lost its northern half to an al-Qaida cell and their allies. After the extremists began a southward push, Hollande unilaterally authorized a military intervention, quickly liberating the main cities in the north. Outside the heavily fortified cities like Timbuktu, however, the jihadists are still present, leading an increasingly brutal insurgency.

Eiffel Tower evacuated after bomb threat

PARIS (AP)—The Eiffel Tower was evacuated Saturday night after an anonymous caller phoned in a bomb threat, police said. Nearly 1,400 people were sent away from the tourist attraction following a request from tower operators after the warning, a Paris police official said. Police then searched the monument with sniffer dogs, and set up a security perimeter. No explosives were found and the site was to be reopened, the official said on condition of anonymity because she wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

Focus

Heart repair breakthroughs replace surgeon's knife

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Monday, March 11, 2013 photo, Atlanta cardiologist Dr. Spencer King holds a model of a diseased heart valve with a replacement placed inside during a demonstration at an American College of Cardiology conference in San Francisco.
AP

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Have a heart problem? If it's fixable, there's a good chance it can be done without surgery, using tiny tools and devices that are pushed through tubes into blood vessels.

Heart care is in the midst of a transformation. Many problems that once required sawing through the breastbone and opening up the chest for open heart surgery now can be treated with a nip, twist or patch through a tube.

These minimal procedures used to be done just to unclog arteries and correct less common heart rhythm problems. Now some patients are getting such repairs for valves, irregular heartbeats, holes in the heart and other defects—without major surgery. Doctors even are testing ways to treat high blood pressure with some of these new approaches.

All rely on catheters—hollow tubes that let doctors burn away and reshape heart tissue or correct defects through small holes in blood vessels.

"This is the replacement for the surgeon's knife. Instead of opening the chest, we're able to put catheters in through the leg, sometimes through the arm," said Dr. Spencer King of St. Joseph's Heart and Vascular Institute in Atlanta. He is former president of the American College of Cardiology. Its conference earlier this month featured research on these novel devices.

"Many patients after having this kind of procedure in a day or two can go home" rather than staying in the hospital while a big wound heals, he said. It may lead to cheaper treatment, although the initial cost of the novel devices often offsets the savings from shorter hospital stays.

Not everyone can have catheter treatment, and some promising devices have hit snags in testing. Others on the market now are so new that it will take several years to see if their results last as long as the benefits from surgery do.

But already, these procedures have allowed many people too old or frail for an operation to get help for problems that otherwise would likely kill them.

"You can do these on 90-year-old patients," King said.

These methods also offer an option for people who cannot tolerate long-term use of blood thinners or other drugs to manage their conditions, or who don't get enough help from these medicines and are getting worse.

"It's opened up a whole new field," said Dr. Hadley Wilson, cardiology chief at Carolinas HealthCare System in Charlotte. "We can hopefully treat more patients more definitively, with better results."

For patients, this is crucial: Make sure you are evaluated by a "heart team" that includes a surgeon as well as other specialists who do less invasive treatments. Many patients now get whatever treatment is offered by whatever specialist they are sent to, and those specialists sometimes are rivals.

"We want to get away from that" and do whatever is best for the patient, said Dr. Timothy Gardner, a surgeon at Christiana Care Health System in Newark, Del., and an American Heart Association spokesman. "There shouldn't be a rivalry in the field."

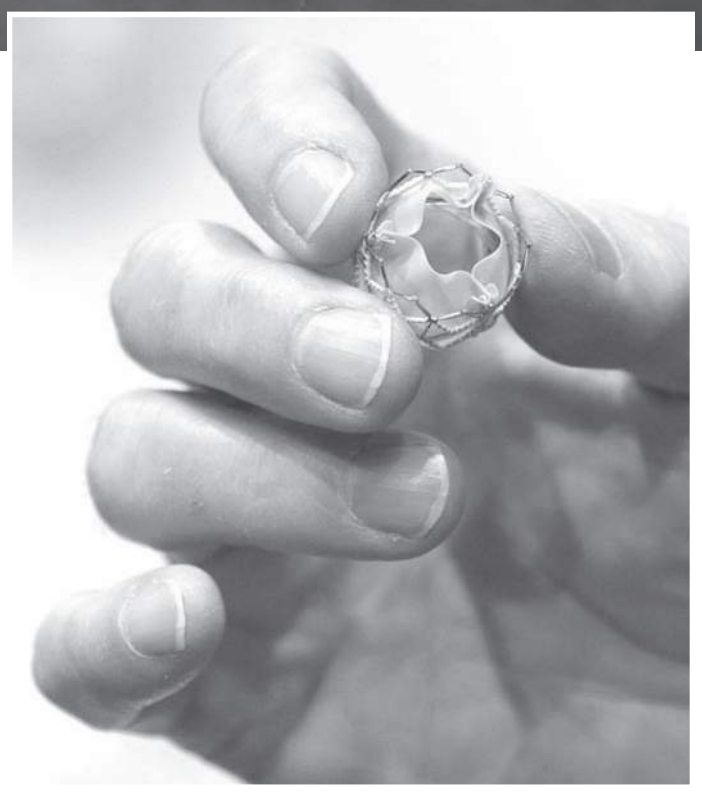
Here are some common problems and newer treatments for them:

HEART VALVES

Millions of people have leaky heart valves. Each year, more than 100,000 people in the United States alone have surgery for them. A common one is the aortic valve, the heart's main gate. It can stiffen and narrow, making the heart strain to push blood through it. Without a valve replacement operation, half of these patients die within two years, yet many are too weak to have one.

"Essentially, this was a death sentence," said Dr. John Harold, a Los Angeles heart specialist who is president of the College of Cardiology.

That changed just over a year ago, when Edwards Lifesciences Corp. won approval to sell an artificial aortic valve flexible and small enough to fit into a catheter and wedged inside the bad one. At first it was just for inoperable patients. Last fall, use was expanded to include people able to have surgery but at high risk of complications.



AP
In this Monday, March 11, 2013 photo, Atlanta cardiologist Dr. Spencer King holds a replacement heart valve during a demonstration at an American College of Cardiology conference in San Francisco. Millions of people have valve problems - each year, more than 100,000 people in the United States alone have surgery for them.

Gary Verwer, 76, of Napa, Calif., had a bypass operation in 1988 that made surgery too risky when he later developed trouble with his aortic valve.

"It was getting worse every day. I couldn't walk from my bed to my bathroom without having to sit down and rest," he said. After getting a new valve through a catheter last April at Stanford University, "everything changed; it was almost immediate," he said. "Now I can walk almost three miles a day and enjoy it. I'm not tired at all."

"The chest cracking part is not the most fun," he said of his earlier bypass surgery. "It was a great relief not to have to go through that recovery again."

Catheter-based treatments for other valves also are in testing. One for the mitral valve—Abbott Laboratories' MitraClip—had a mixed review by federal Food and Drug Administration advisers this week; whether it will win FDA approval is unclear. It is already sold in Europe.

HEART RHYTHM PROBLEMS

Catheters can contain tools to vaporize or "ablate" bits of heart tissue that cause abnormal signals that control the heartbeat. This used to be done only for some serious or relatively rare problems, or surgically if a patient was having an operation for another heart issue.

Now catheter ablation is being used for the most common rhythm problem—atrial fibrillation, which plagues about 3 million Americans and 15 million people worldwide. The upper chambers of the heart quiver or beat too fast or too slow. That lets blood pool in a small pouch off one of these chambers. Clots can form in the pouch and travel to the brain, causing a stroke.

Ablation addresses the underlying rhythm problem. To address the stroke risk from pooled blood, several novel devices aim to plug or seal off the pouch. Only one has approval in the U.S. now—SentreHeart Inc.'s Lariat, a tiny lasso to cinch the pouch shut. It uses two catheters that act like chopsticks. One goes through a blood vessel and into the pouch to help guide placement of the device, which is contained in a second catheter poked under the ribs to the outside of the heart. A loop is released to circle the top of the pouch where it meets the heart, sealing off the pouch.

A different kind of device—Boston Scientific Corp.'s Watchman—is sold in Europe and parts of Asia, but is pending before the FDA in the U.S. It's like a tiny umbrella pushed through a vein and then opened inside the heart to plug the troublesome pouch. Early results from a pivotal study released by the company suggested it would miss a key goal, making its future in the U.S. uncertain.

HEART DEFECTS

Some people have a hole in a heart wall called an atrial septal defect that causes abnormal blood flow. St. Jude Medical Inc.'s Amplatzer is a fabric-mesh patch threaded through catheters to plug the hole.

The patch is also being tested for a more common defect—PFO, a hole that results when the heart wall doesn't seal the way it should after birth. This can raise the risk of stroke. In two new studies, the device did not meet the main goal of lowering the risk of repeat strokes in people who had already suffered one, but some doctors were encouraged by other results.

CLOGGED ARTERIES

The original catheter-based treatment—balloon angioplasty—is still used hundreds of thousands of times each year in the U.S. alone. A Japanese company, Terumo Corp., is one of the leaders of a new way to do it that is easier on patients—through a catheter in the arm rather than the groin.

Newer stents that prop arteries open and then dissolve over time, aimed at reducing the risk of blood clots, also are in late-stage testing.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

About 75 million Americans and 1 billion people worldwide have high blood pressure, a major risk factor for heart attacks. Researchers are testing a possible long-term fix for dangerously high pressure that can't be controlled with multiple medications.

It uses a catheter and radio waves to zap nerves, located near the kidneys, which fuel high blood pressure. At least one device is approved in Europe and several companies are testing devices in the United States.

"We're very excited about this," said Harold, the cardiology college's president. It offers hope to "essentially cure high blood pressure."

Health & Fitness

Scientists find new gene markers for cancer risk

NEW YORK (AP)—A huge international effort involving more than 100 institutions and genetic tests on 200,000 people has uncovered dozens of signposts in DNA that can help reveal further a person's risk for breast, ovarian or prostate cancer, scientists reported Wednesday.

It's the latest mega-collaboration to learn more about the intricate mechanisms that lead to cancer. And while the headway seems significant in many ways, the potential payoff for ordinary people is mostly this: Someday there may be genetic tests that help identify women with the most to gain from mammograms, and men who could benefit most from PSA tests and prostate biopsies.

And perhaps farther in the future these genetic clues might lead to new treatments.

"This adds another piece to the puzzle," said Harpal Kumar, chief executive of Cancer Research U.K., the charity which funded much of the research.

One analysis suggests that among men whose family history gives them roughly a 20 percent lifetime risk for prostate cancer, such genetic markers could identify those whose real risk is 60 percent.

The markers also could make a difference for women with BRCA gene mutations, which puts them at high risk for breast cancer. Researchers may be able to separate those whose lifetime risk exceeds 80 percent from women whose risk is about 20 to 50 percent. One doctor said that might mean some women would choose to monitor for cancer rather than taking the drastic step of having healthy breasts removed.

AP

Vicki Gilbert sits on stone steps in Wiltshire, England in this undated photo made available by the family on Tuesday, March 26, 2013.

Scientists have found risk markers for the three diseases before, but the new trove doubles the known list, said one author, Douglas Easton of Cambridge University. The discoveries also reveal clues about the biological underpinnings of these cancers, which may pay off someday in better therapies, he said.

Experts not connected with the work said it was encouraging but that more research is needed to see how useful it would be for guiding patient care. One suggested that using a gene test along with PSA testing and other factors might help determine which men have enough risk of a life-threatening prostate cancer that they should get a biopsy. Many prostate cancers found early are slow-growing and won't be fatal, but there is no way to differentiate and many men have surgery they may not need.

Easton said the prospects for a genetic test are greater for prostate and breast cancer than ovarian cancer.

Breast cancer is the most common malignancy among women worldwide, with more than 1 million new cases a year. Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men after lung cancer, with about 900,000 new cases every year. Ovarian cancer accounts for about 4 percent of all cancers diagnosed in women, causing about 225,000 cases worldwide.

The new results were released in 13 reports in Nature Genetics, PLOS Genetics and other journals. They come from a collaboration involving more than 130 institutions in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere. The research was mainly paid for by Cancer Research U.K., the European Union and the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

Scientists used scans of DNA from more than 200,000 people to seek the markers, tiny variations in the 3 billion "letters" of the DNA code that are associated with disease risk.

The scientists found 49 new risk markers for breast cancer plus a couple of others that modify breast cancer risk from rare mutated genes, 26 for prostate cancer and eight for ovarian cancer. Individually, each marker has only a slight impact on risk estimation, too small to be useful on its own, Easton said. They would be combined and added to previously known markers to help reveal a person's risk, he said.

A genetic test could be useful in identifying people who should get mammography or PSA testing, said Hilary Burton, director of the PHG Foundation, a genomics think-tank in Cambridge, England. A mathematical analysis done by her group found that under certain assumptions, a gene test using all known markers could reduce the number of mammograms and PSA tests by around 20 percent, with only a small cost in cancer cases missed.

Among the new findings:

■ For breast cancer, researchers calculated that by using all known markers, including the new ones, they could identify 5 percent of the female population with twice the average risk of disease, and 1 percent with a three-fold risk. The average lifetime risk of getting breast cancer is about 12 percent in developed countries. It's lower in the developing world where other diseases are a bigger problem.

■ For prostate cancer, using all the known markers could identify 1 percent of men with nearly five times the average risk, the researchers computed. In developed countries, a man's average lifetime risk for the disease is about 14 to 16 percent, lower in developing nations.

■ Markers can also make a difference in estimates of breast cancer risk for women with the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutations. Such women are rare, but their lifetime risk can run as high as 85 percent. Researchers said that with the new biomarkers, it might be possible to identify the small group of these women with a risk of 28 percent or less.

For patients like Vicki Gilbert of England, who carries a variation of the BRCA1 gene, having such details about her cancer risk would have made decision-making easier.

Gilbert, 50, found out about her genetic risk after being diagnosed with the disease in 2009. Though doctors said the gene wouldn't change the kind of chemotherapy she got, they suggested removing her ovaries to avoid ovarian cancer, which is also made more likely by a mutated BRCA1.

"They didn't want to express a definite opinion on whether I should have my ovaries removed so I had to weigh up my options for myself," said Gilbert, a veterinary receptionist in Wiltshire. "...I decided to have my ovaries removed because that takes away the fear it could happen. It certainly would have been nice to have more information to know that was the right choice."

Gilbert said knowing more about the genetic risks of cancer should be reassuring for most patients. "There are so many decisions made for you when you go through cancer treatment that being able to decide something yourself is very important," she said.

Dr. Charis Eng, chair of the Genomic Medicine Institute at the Cleveland Clinic, who didn't participate in the new work, called the breast cancer research exciting but not ready for routine use.

Most women who carry a BRCA gene choose intensive surveillance with both mammograms and MRI and some choose to have their breasts removed to prevent the disease, she said. Even the lower risk described by the new research is worrisomely high, and might not persuade a woman to avoid such precautions completely, Eng said.

Study: Health law to raise claims cost 32 percent

WASHINGTON (AP)—A new study finds that insurance companies will have to pay out an average of 32 percent more for medical claims on individual health policies under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

What does that mean for you?

It could increase premiums for at least some Americans.

If you are uninsured, or you buy your policy directly from an insurance company, you should pay attention.

But if you have an employer plan, like most workers and their families, odds are you don't have much to worry about.

The estimates from the Society of Actuaries could turn into a political headache for the Obama administration at a time when much of the country remains skeptical of the Affordable Care Act.

The administration is questioning the study, saying it doesn't give a full picture—and costs will go down.

Actuaries are financial risk professionals who conduct long-range cost estimates for pension plans, insurance companies and government programs. The study says claims costs will go up largely because sicker people will join the insurance pool. That's because the law forbids insurers from turning down those with pre-existing medical problems, effective Jan. 1. Everyone gets sick sooner or later, but sicker people also use more health care services.

"Claims cost is the most important driver of health care premiums," said Kristi Bohn, an actuary who worked on the study. Spending on sicker people and other high-cost groups will overwhelm an influx of younger, healthier people into the program, said the report.

The Obama administration challenged the design of the study, saying it focused only on one piece of the puzzle and ignored cost relief strategies in the law, such as tax credits to help people afford premiums and special payments to insurers who attract an outsize share of the sick.

The study also doesn't take into account the potential price-cutting effect of competition in new state insurance markets that will go live Oct. 1, administration officials said.

At a White House briefing Tuesday, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said some of what passes for health insurance today is so skimpy it can't be compared to the comprehensive coverage available under the law. "Some of these folks have very high catastrophic plans that don't pay for anything unless you get hit by a bus," she said. "They're really mortgage protection, not health insurance."

Sebelius said the picture on premiums won't start coming into focus until insurers submit their bids. Those results may not be publicly known until late summer.

Another striking finding of the report was a wide disparity in cost impact among the states.

While some states will see medical claims costs per person decline, the report concluded that the overwhelming majority will see double-digit increases in their individual health insurance markets, where people purchase coverage directly from insurers.

The differences are big. By 2017, the estimated increase would be 62 percent for California, about 80 percent for Ohio, more than 20 percent for Florida and 67 percent for Maryland. Much of the reason for the higher claims costs is that sicker people are expected to join the pool, the report said.

Part of the reason for the wide disparities is that states have different populations and insurance rules. In the relatively small number of states where insurers were already restricted from charging higher rates to older, sicker people, the cost impact is less.

The report did not make similar estimates for employer plans that most workers and families rely on. That's because the primary impact of Obama's law is on people who don't have coverage through their jobs.

A prominent national expert, recently retired Medicare chief actuary Rick Foster, said the report does "a credible job" of estimating potential enrollment and costs under the law, "without trying to tilt the answers in any particular direction."

"Having said that," Foster added, "actuaries tend to be financially conservative, so the various assumptions might be more inclined to consider what might go wrong than to anticipate that everything will work beautifully." Actuaries use statistics and economic theory to make long-range cost projections for insurance and pension programs sponsored by businesses and government. The society is headquartered near Chicago.

Bohn, the actuary who worked on the study, acknowledged it did not attempt to estimate the effect of subsidies, insurer competition and other factors that could offset cost increases. She said the goal was to look at the underlying cost of medical care.

Life & Style

Phil Ramone, Grammy-winning producer, dead at 79

NEW YORK (AP)—Phil Ramone, the masterful Grammy Award-winning engineer, arranger and producer whose platinum touch included recordings with Ray Charles, Billy Joel and Paul Simon, died Saturday of complications stemming from heart surgery, his family said. He was 79.

Ramone, who lived in Wilton, Conn., had elective surgery on Feb. 27 to prevent an aortic aneurysm, son Matt Ramone said. He later developed pneumonia and died Saturday morning at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, the son said.

Few in the recording industry enjoyed a more spectacular and diverse career. Phil Ramone won 14 competitive Grammy Awards and one for lifetime achievement. Worldwide sales for his projects topped 100 million. He was at ease with rock, jazz, swing and pop, working with Frank Sinatra and Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney, Elton John and Tony Bennett, Madonna and Lou Reed.

One of the biggest names not to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Ramone was on hand for such classic albums as The Band's "The Band" and Bob Dylan's "Blood On the Tracks." He produced three records that went on to win Grammys for album of the year—Simon's "Still Crazy After All These Years," Joel's "52nd Street" and Charles' "Genius Loves Company."

"I always thought of Phil Ramone as the most talented guy in my band," Joel said in a statement. "So much of my music was shaped by him and brought to fruition by him. I have lost a dear friend—and my greatest mentor."

AP

In this Oct. 6, 2008 photo, Arts Advocacy Award honoree Phil Ramone attends the 2008 National Arts Awards presented by Americans For The Arts at Cipriani's 42nd St. in New York.

Fascinated by the mechanics of the studio, Ramone was a pioneer of digital recording who produced what is regarded as the first major commercial release on compact disc, "52nd Street," which came out on CD in 1982. He was even part of political history, advising presidential administrations on musical events and how to properly tape a news conference and helping to record the storied 1962 party for John F. Kennedy at Madison Square Garden that featured Marilyn Monroe's gushing rendition of "Happy Birthday."

He thrived whether producing music for the stereo, television, film or the stage. He won an Emmy for a TV special about Duke Ellington, a Grammy for the soundtrack to the Broadway musical "Promises, Promises" and a Grammy for the soundtrack to "Flashdance."

He had uncanny instincts and made an art out of the "Duets" concept, pairing Sinatra with U2 frontman Bono, Luther Vandross and other younger artists, Bennett with McCartney and Barbra Streisand, and Charles with Bonnie Raitt and Van Morrison. In Ramone's memoir, "Making Records," he recalled persuading a hesitant Sinatra to re-record some of his most famous songs.

"I reminded Frank that while Laurence Olivier had performed Shakespeare in his 20s, the readings he did when he was in his 60s gave them new meaning," Ramone wrote. "I spoke with conviction. `Don't my children—and your grandchildren—deserve to hear the way you're interpreting your classic songs now?'"

A request from Sinatra led to another Ramone innovation: Singers performing simultaneously from separate studios.

A native of South Africa, Ramone seemed born to make music. He had learned violin by age 3 and was trained at The Juilliard School in New York. He might well have enjoyed a traditional concert career, but he was drawn as a teenager to the popular music he secretly listened to on his portable radio, the music people actually listened to, he explained.

By his mid-20s, he and partner Jack Arnold had opened a recording studio, A&R Recording, where he served as engineer for such visiting artists as Count Basie and Sarah Vaughan. He also met Quincy Jones and Streisand, both of whom became longtime friends, when he was in his 20s. By the end of the 1960s, he had worked on "Midnight Cowboy" and other movie soundtracks and would credit composer John Barry with helping him become a producer.

His credits as a producer, engineer and arranger make it hard to believe they belong to just one person: Joel's "The Stranger," Simon's "There Goes Rhymin' Simon," concert albums by Dylan and the Rolling Stones, such popular singles as Arlo Guthrie's "Alice's Restaurant," Streisand's "Evergreen," Lesley Gore's "It's My Party," Judy Collins' "Send in the Clowns" and Stan Getz's and Astrud Gilberto's "The Girl from Ipanema."

The bearded, self-effacing Ramone was among the most famous and welcome faces within the business, yet he could walk down virtually any street unnoticed. He was not a high-strung visionary in the tradition of Phil Spector, but rather a highly accomplished craftsman and diplomat who prided himself on his low-key style, on being an "objective filter" for the artist, on not being "a screamer."

"The record producer is the music world's equivalent of a film director," he wrote in his memoir. "But, unlike a director (who is visible, and often a celebrity in his own right), the record producer toils in anonymity. We ply our craft deep into the night, behind locked doors."

Ramone's friendly style was especially welcomed by Joel. The singer-songwriter was already a popular artist in the mid-1970s, but he felt he lacked a sympathetic producer, one who appreciated Joel's bandmates as much as Joel. Ramone joined on for what became one of Joel's biggest successes, "The Stranger," released in 1977. As Joel explained at the time, Ramone fit right in with the musicians and encouraged everyone to relax and play more like they did on stage, like "rock and roll animals."

Quotes on Phil Ramone from luminaries

NEW YORK (AP)—Reactions to Phil Ramone's death:

"A friend, a musical genius and the most lovable person. It was a thrill for me to have worked with Phil, and I have so many wonderful memories."—Elton John

"I'm so saddened to learn of Phil's passing. We first worked together in 1967 when I did a free concert in Central Park. His brilliance at capturing sound was immediately evident. Later we worked together on the film `A Star Is Born' where Phil was able to record me singing live, including `Evergreen.' In the next decade we worked on the soundtrack to `Yentl' and many other recordings. Phil had impeccable musical taste, great ears and the most gentle way of bringing out the best in all the artists he worked with. The monumental recordings he produced will endure for all time."—Barbra Streisand

"There aren't enough words to express how heavy my heart is with the news of the passing of my dear friend and brother Phil Ramone. From Andy Williams and Lesley Gore, to Billy Eckstine, Paul Simon and all of my albums including `Soul Bossa Nova' and `Q's Jook Joint,' Phil was a collaborator in the studio and a friend in life for more than 50 years. Whenever I was in the studio recording, if Phil wasn't there by my side it would seem like one ingredient was missing. Today we lost one of the true musicians, innovators and geniuses of the record industry. His immense talents were only surpassed by the gigantic size of his heart, and I will miss him terribly."—Quincy Jones

"I always thought of Phil Ramone as the most talented guy in my band. He was the guy that no one ever ever saw onstage. He was with me as long as any of the musicians I ever played with—longer than most. So much of my music was shaped by him and brought to fruition by him. I have lost a dear friend—and my greatest mentor. The music world lost a giant today."—Billy Joel

What a heartbreak to all of us who knew him and loved him. What a great man, what a kind spirit, such an incredible producer. The star of stars behind the stars. Phil will be missed always. Truly a tragic loss for us on earth but what a wonderful blessing for heaven. As I've always said, `Love you Phil, God Bless.'"—Stevie Wonder

"Phil Ramone was a lovely person and a very gifted musician and producer. It was a joy to have him work with me in the recording studio on so many projects as he had a wonderful sense of humor and a deep love of music. Phil had the admiration and respect from everyone in the entertainment industry and his passing is a great loss."—Tony Bennett

"Phil was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. It was an honor to know him. He was an angel and I loved him dearly. This is a profound loss for the music world, for all the lives he touched and of course for his family ... Rest in Peace, Phil ... You will be deeply missed and never forgotten."—Michael Buble

As co-founder of A&R Recordings, he was a pioneer of audio technological developments—creating new innovations for the compact disc and surround sound technologies. His impressive career spanned all genres in which he collaborated with a diverse group of artists including Tony Bennett, Etta James, Paul McCartney, Luciano Pavarotti, Frank Sinatra, Bruce Springsteen and numerous others ... Our industry has lost an immense talent and a true visionary and genius, and The Academy has lost a very dear and close friend."—Neil Portnow, President/CEO, The Recording Academy

Awards and honors given to producer Phil Ramone

Some of the awards and honors given to music producer, arranger and engineer Phil Ramone:

Grammy Awards:

- 2011 Producer, Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album for Tony Bennett's "Duets II"
- 2006 Producer, Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album for Tony Bennett's "Duets: An American Classic"
- 2005 Producer, Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album for Tony Bennett's "The Art of Romance"
- 2004 Producer, Album of the Year for Ray Charles' "Genius Loves Company"
- 2004 Producer, Best Surround Sound Album for Ray Charles' "Genius Loves Company"
- 2004 Technical Grammy, for contributions of outstanding technical significance to the recording field
- 2002 Producer, Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album for Tony Bennett's "Playin' With My Friends: Bennett Sings The Blues"
- 1994 Producer, Best Musical Show Album for "Passion"
- 1983 Composer, Best Instrumental Composition Written for a Motion Picture or for Television for "Flashdance"
- 1980 Producer of the Year, Non-Classical
- 1979 Producer, Album of the Year for Billy Joel's "52nd Street"
- 1978 Producer, Record of the Year for Billy Joel's "Just The Way You Are"
- 1975 Producer, Album of the Year for Paul Simon's "Still Crazy After All These Years"
- 1969 Producer, Best Musical Show Album for "Promises, Promises"
- 1964 Engineer, Best Engineered Recording (non-classical) for Stan Getz and Joao Gilberto's "Getz/Gilberto"

Emmy Award:

- 1973, Sound Mixer, Outstanding Achievement In Live Or Tape Sound Mixing for "Duke Ellington ... We Love You Madly"

National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS):

- 2001 National Trustees Award
- 2000 New York Heroes Award
- 1984 Governors Award for Honor Roll for A&R/Producers
- 1965 National Trustee Award, Engineering

Honorary Degrees:

- Doctor of Musicology, Berklee College of Music, Boston, and Five Towns College, Dix Hills, N.Y.
- Doctor of Humane Letters, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

Comedian Anderson still hurting from diving mishap

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—Comedian Louie Anderson says he's been in pain all week from a recent diving mishap during a taping of the ABC celebrity diving show "Splash."

Anderson, who weighs more than 400 pounds, was trying to do a flip from the 5-meter board when he slammed into the water, landing on his face and chest.

"If I were lying down right now, you would have to help me up," the 60-year-old Anderson said Wednesday. "It's been almost a week and it still hurts almost as much."

Anderson, who skipped diving practice Tuesday night to take the stage in Sioux Falls, S.D., for a show benefiting the Brennan Rock & Roll Academy, said he asked the "Splash" staff after the accident if he was suffering internal bleeding or damage but was told no.

"They said, `That's your abs. You've never worked them,'" Anderson joked. "The last time I worked them was when I was struggling to get out of my mother. That was it, and I haven't worked them since."

The American version of "Splash," a surprise hit that originated in Europe, has Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis coaching a diverse cast of celebrities that includes Detroit Lions lineman Ndamukong Suh, 2012 Miss Alabama Katherine Webb, basketball great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and former Baywatch star Nicole Eggert.

Anderson said he's not alone coming away with some bumps and bruises.

"Ndamukong Suh hit his nose. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar sprained his neck," he said. "Nicole was up on a handstand and she slammed her chest and stomach into the 5-meter board and then fell into the water—and then, two hours later, had to do the dive on TV."

Anderson, who just learned how to swim five years ago, said he decided to give the show a try after producers showed him a clip of the Netherlands version. He said it's the most exciting thing he's ever done.

"I'm at 23 feet, diving into 17 feet of water. I'm over 400 pounds," he said. "Who doesn't want to see that? I do. I'm always shocked that I can do it."

The stand-up comedian said he's glad the show is catching on with viewers.

"I didn't have any idea if it would be a hit or not," he said. "I was either going to be inspirational or a laughingstock. So I'm lucky that some people thought I did a good job."

Anderson said he's having a lot of fun, but he's also trying to win.

"I know people don't think I have a chance, but that's how I think," he said. "Why do it if you don't do it great?"

AP

Comedian Louie Anderson, shown in this photo taken Wednesday, March, 27, 2013 in Sioux Falls, S.D., was able to skip practice from the celebrity diving show "Splash" to do a benefit stand-up show for the Brennan Rock & Roll Academy.

CBS renews 18 prime-time series for next season

NEW YORK (AP)—There's little suspense ahead for CBS viewers: The nation's most popular broadcaster said Wednesday that it has renewed 18 of its prime-time series for next season.

The long-running comedy "Two and a Half Men" was not on the list, but CBS said it's discussing another season with the show's production company, Warner Bros. Television.

CBS has been dominant in the ratings this year and lately has taken to predating the annual release of its fall schedule in May with an announcement of mass renewals earlier in the spring. The renewals include news shows "60 Minutes" and "48 Hours" and reality shows "Survivor," "The Amazing Race" and "Undercover Boss."

Dramas back on the schedule next fall are the top-rated "NCIS" and its spinoff, "NCIS: Los Angeles." Other returning shows are "Elementary," "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," "Person of Interest," "Hawaii Five-0," "The Mentalist," "Blue Bloods" and "The Good Wife." Renewed comedies are "The Big Bang Theory," "How I Met Your Mother," "2 Broke Girls" and "Mike & Molly."

"How I Met Your Mother" will have its final season and, presumably, answer the mystery of who the mother actually is.

The shows still on the bubble are "CSI: NY," "Vegas," "Golden Boy" and "Rules of Engagement." CBS may renew some or none of those shows, depending on its development of new programs.

AP

This undated publicity image released by CBS shows, from left, Simon Helberg, Jim Parsons, and Johnny Galecki in a scene from "The Big Bang Theory," a long-running series, one of 18 shows renewed by CBS on Wednesday, March 27, 2013.

Filmmaker who rescued Romanian orphans is killed

ENCINITAS, Calif. (AP)—A documentary filmmaker known for helping rescue children from squalid Romanian orphanages in the early 1990s was fatally shot following an apparent dispute over the trimming of shrubbery outside his Southern California home, officials said Friday.

John Charles Upton Jr., 56, was found dead Thursday on a dirt path in the yard of his Encinitas home. The San Diego County Sheriff's Department said detectives arrested Michael Vilkin, 61, on suspicion of murder. He was being held without bail, pending arraignment Tuesday.

Upton, after learning of the plight of Romanian orphans, publicized the brutal conditions and was instrumental in bringing an estimated two dozen orphans to America for medical care and adoption.

Vilkin, in an interview conducted in county jail, told KGTV in San Diego he fired gunshots in self-defense after Upton menaced him with a gun during a dispute over foliage.

Vilkin said he owns vacant property next to Upton's home, and the two men had a disagreement over trimming shrubs.

"I did not go to him," Vilkin told the station. "He came to me threatening and pulled a gun (on) me."

A statement from the department said a dispute between the two men led to the shooting, which was under investigation.

Upton's brother, Michael Upton, told U-T San Diego that his brother and Vilkin previously argued about trees.

Upton's work in Romania also gained the attention of influential activists, inspiring billionaire philanthropist Richard Branson and actress Jessica Lange to help rescue youngsters from Romania.

Upton went on to create an online network of films about charitable causes.

Jeremy Piven moves from Ari to Harry in PBS series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jeremy Piven's new TV series is set in decorous England, not the hedonistic Hollywood of "Entourage." The time is the early 1900s, when booming London would have struck the very 21st-century Ari Gold as a mind-numbing bust.

And, most notably, "Mr. Selfridge," starring Piven as the real-life American entrepreneur whose mission was to transform and conquer British retailing, is airing not on the frisky, few-holds-barred HBO home of "Entourage," but on restrained PBS.

Don't get the wrong idea, cautions Piven, who earned three Emmys for his portrayal of power player Ari. The eight-part series debuting with a two-hour episode Sunday (check local listings for time) has its hero's brash, lusty passion—for business and women—at its core.

"Yes, it's a period piece. But the term `period' has to be used loosely, because it's also funny and it has energy and it moves," Piven said. Lovers of standard British costume dramas ("Downton Abbey" fans, you know who you are) shouldn't be put off, he added.

"This will, I think, satisfy those people who want to see the way it was at the turn of the century ... but then you also get all the energy and the sexiness and the humor," he said.

"Mr. Selfridge," based on the nonfiction book "Shopping, Seduction & Mr. Selfridge" by Lindy Woodhead, details Harry Gordon Selfridge's quest to bring brassy American salesmanship to the hidebound world of British shops with his enduring Selfridges & Co.

AP

In this Jan. 15, 2013 photo, actor Jeremy Piven, from the television series "Mr. Selfridge," poses for a portrait during the PBS Winter TCA Tour at the Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena, Calif.

The series co-stars Zoe Tapper as Ellen Love, a fictional character drafted as an amalgam of Selfridge's assorted extramarital romances, and Frances O'Connor as his loyal but tested wife, Rose. ("He was an exceptionally active man with the ladies," wryly observed screenwriter Andrew Davies, who adapted Woodhead's book for the series co-produced by PBS' "Masterpiece" and ITV Studios.)

Selfridge, who had honed his retailing strategies and marketing skills at Chicago's famed Marshall Field, built an Oxford Street shopping palace that introduced such concepts as elaborate window displays and cosmetics counters, and services ranging from restaurants to beauty salons to a concierge.

His bravura and extravagance in creating Selfridges was boundless, as was his optimism. Some in the British press sneered: "A crusade has been started to force on London superfluous luxuries such as those overstocked across the Atlantic," warned the British Weekly, according to Woodhead's history.

The contrast between the U.S. and the U.K. was part of the project's draw for him, Piven said.

"Our culture and the American dream is butting heads directly with the British culture and the realistic take they have on life," he said. "They believe it's tough out there—very few make it and you probably won't. We're all, `You can do it! You can do anything!'"

Piven found himself fascinated by Selfridge's history, and added some personal memories. Raised in a Chicago suburb, he was exposed to the retail magic Selfridge first developed there.

Justin Bieber's monkey quarantined in Germany

AP

In this March 28, 2013 file picture Canadian singer Justin Bieber performs on stage during the "I Believe Tour " in Munich, southern Germany.

BERLIN (AP)—Justin Bieber had to leave a monkey in quarantine after landing in Germany last week without the necessary papers for the animal, an official said Saturday.

The 19-year-old singer arrived at Munich airport last Thursday. When he went through customs, he didn't have the documentation necessary to bring the capuchin monkey into the country, so the animal had to stay with authorities, customs spokesman Thomas Meister said.

Bieber performed in Munich on Thursday, beginning the latest leg of his European tour. He later tweeted: "Munich was a good time. And loud. The bus is headed to Vienna now. U coming?" He didn't mention the monkey.

The Canadian singer is giving several concerts in Austria and then in Germany over the next week.

Bieber had a trying stay in London recently. The star struggled with his breathing and fainted backstage at a show, was taken to a hospital and then was caught on camera clashing with a paparazzo. Days earlier, he was booed by his beloved fans when he showed up late to a concert.

Gene Simmons says music can save a child's life

By KRISTI EATON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—Kiss frontman Gene Simmons made a surprise appearance at a Sioux Falls benefit concert Saturday, where he spoke of music's power to positively shape children's lives.

Simmons's appearance came on the final day of a week of concerts to benefit the music academy for Sioux Falls Boys & Girls Clubs members.

"This is about kids. We've had our chance. We've got to give them a chance. Anything that gets them off the street is a good thing," Simmons said.

Music, Simmons said, is self-empowering.

"It doesn't matter if you become a star. If you don't believe in yourself and get up on stage, everybody is watching. You can feel the power ... and it helps you get through life, especially when you're impressionable."

He said getting involved in music—whether it's learning to play an instrument or sing karaoke—improves social skills, too.

Motley Crue singer Vince Neil was also at Saturday's show, and he, too, expounded on the positive benefits of music.

"Say you finish your first song, it could be `Mary Had a Little Lamb,' it doesn't matter, but at least it's something you've played," Neil said. "And I think for kids, they could go into a whole other direction because they accomplished something."

Neil said he was 10 when he first started taking guitar lessons.

"I was terrible," he said laughing. "That's why I'm not a guitarist. I went into the other direction."

AP

Gene Simmons, the lead singer of the rock band Kiss, makes an unannounced appearance at a fundraiser concert at the Brennan Rock & Roll Academy, Saturday, Mar. 30, 2013, in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Singer India.Arie laughs off skin-lightening talk

AP

In this Jan. 30, 2010 file photo, India.Arie arrives at the annual Pre-GRAMMY Gala presented by The Recording Academy and Clive Davis at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly, Hills, Calif.

NEW YORK (AP)—India.Arie is laughing off talk that she may have lightened her skin.

The R&B songstress is known for singing about being authentic and celebrating one's true self. But some accused India.Arie of lightening her skin when a publicity photo for her song "Cocoa Butter" released this week made it look as though she were several shades lighter than her dark brown complexion.

But India.Arie took to Twitter on Friday to deny the accusations, saying she has no desire to bleach her skin because she loves herself and her brown skin "more than ever." She also said that "magnificent lighting" is the cause for her "glow."

She added that she'd like to keep the conversation going, though, on the issue of racism and colorism in the black community.

Judge: Jolie didn't plagiarize 'Blood and Honey'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal judge says actress Angelina Jolie didn't steal the story for her movie "In the Land of Blood and Honey" from a Croatian author.

City News Service reports Friday's tentative ruling in Los Angeles will throw out the suit accusing Jolie of copyright infringement.

In 2011, author James Braddock sued Jolie and the film company that made the film, saying it was partly based on his book "The Soul Shattering."

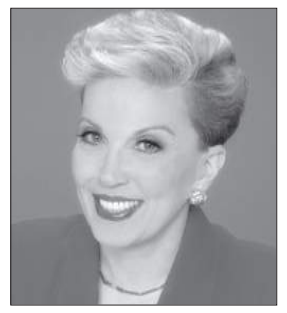
U.S. District Judge Dolly M. Gee wrote in a tentative ruling that the plots, characters and themes in the two works were not "substantially" similar, though both centered on war romances.

Jolie wrote, directed and co-produced the film.

Braddock has been ordered to tell the court why his complaint should not be dismissed with prejudice.

What fools we mortals be, trying to pull off a joke!

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DearAbby

DEAR READERS: It's April Fools' Day, the day on which I share some offbeat letters and examples of readers' efforts to pull my leg. It's all in fun—so enjoy!

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married almost 10 years. He has always been a good husband, but recently he has been coming home increasingly late. He says he's putting in overtime.

The other day when I was doing the laundry, I discovered a red stain on his underwear. He said they were painting the bathroom at work and he had gotten paint on it when he used the facilities, but it looks more like lipstick to me.

Can you tell me how to get the lipstick out of his shorts?

GOOD HOUSEWIFE IN UTAH

DEAR GOOD HOUSEWIFE: There's more to marriage than getting whiter whites. You may be a great housewife, but you're missing the big picture. More important than getting the lipstick out of his shorts is keeping his shorts away from the lipstick. And that's no joke.

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend just moved in, and we're going to have a party to celebrate. We have decided to have it here, but the problem is we have just one bathroom.

I think we should rent a porta-potty. We could put it in the hallway next to the dining room. My girlfriend thinks that's tacky, but I think it's a sensible solution. Because this is a fourth-floor walk-up, the porta-potty folks may charge extra to deliver it. Advice, please?

TOM AND NANCY IN NEW YORK

DEAR TOM AND NANCY: Gladly. CHARGE for the use of the porta-potty and two things will happen: You will make enough money to reimburse yourself for the delivery cost, and so few guests will accept your invitations in the future t

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I and our teenage son came home from a family get-together, and after he went to bed, my wife told me she wants to get a new, "bouncier" bed. We don't want to wake up our son with the noise of our enjoying it. What kind of bed do you recommend?

MR. ROMANCE IN OREGON

DEAR MR. ROMANCE: Forget the bed and buy a trampoline. And if your son asks why, tell him you're training to join the circus.

DEAR ABBY: How can I give my boyfriend makeup sex if we never have an argument?

MISS BLISS IN INDIANA

DEAR MISS BLISS: That's a good question. If you figure out the answer, let me know.

DEAR ABBY: I am a married man dating a married woman. She's the love of my life. My girlfriend is sweet, kind, has a caring heart and is very much a lady.

We often sneak away for romantic weekends, where we laugh and enjoy being together and forget our daily routines. Sometimes I'll stop and watch her while she shops or talks to people and admire how beautiful she is. The twinkle in her eyes is as close as I can get to the stars in the sky. I adore her and plan to be with her for the rest of my life.

And one more thing: My girlfriend is also my bride of 40 years!

ONE LUCKY GUY IN TENNESSEE

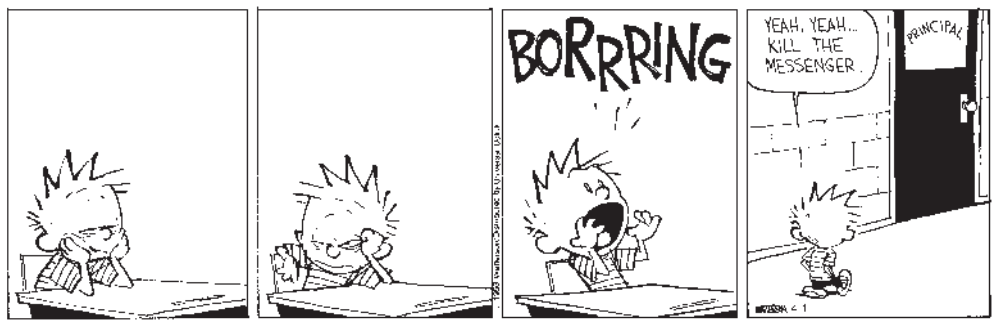
DEAR LUCKY GUY: Normally I'd advise you to try to turn your wife into the love of your life, but you're ahead of me!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

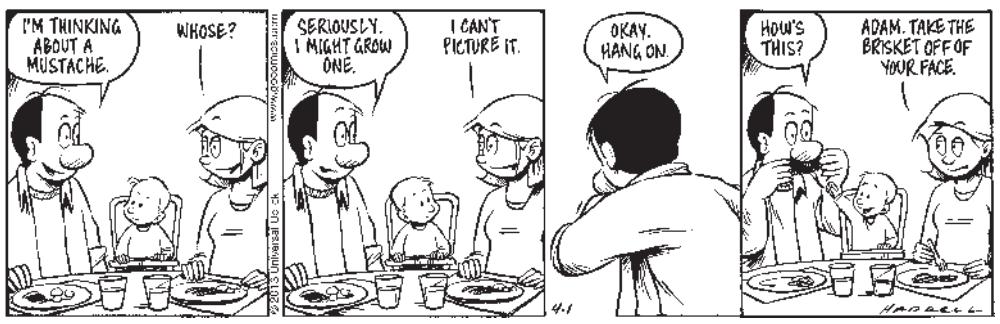


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

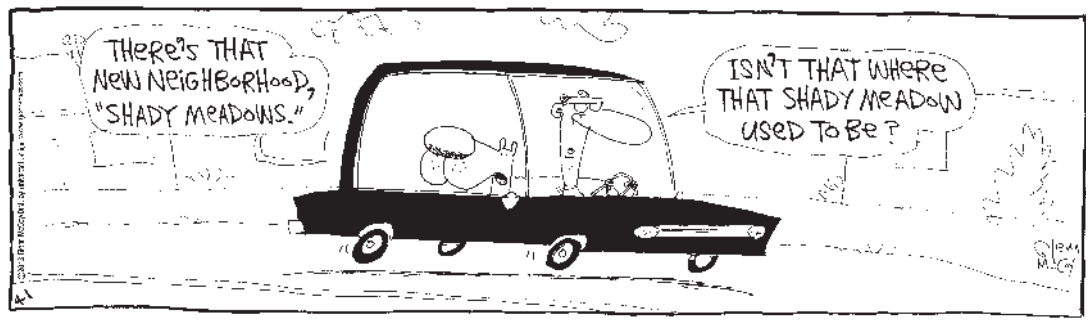
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

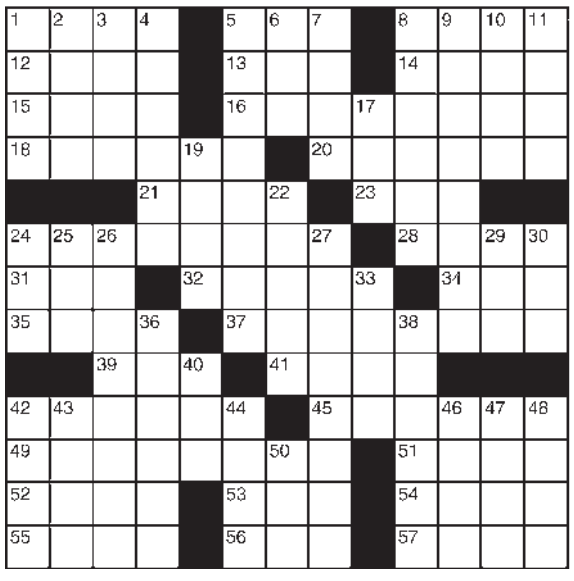
ACROSS
1 Collections
5 Toward the stern
8 Being, to Brutus
12 Enticement
13 Actress Myrna
14 "Once — a time ..."
15 Operatic solo
16 Harem's housing
18 Hex
20 "Long Day's Journey Into Night" writer
21 Fairy tale villain
23 Explosive letters
24 Three-striper
28 Dueling sword
31 Opposite of "post-"
32 Be philanthropic
34 Corn spike
35 St. Louis landmark
37 Dramatic musical work
39 Chance
41 Sandwich shop
42 Alexandrian peninsula
45 Maximally
49 Repaired
51 Hee-haw
52 Wise one
53 Past
54 Slender
55 Low card
56 Neither mate
57 Otherwise

DOWN
1 Pole or Czech
2 Continental coin
3 Small combo
4 Sailing veteran
5 Losers
6 Enemy
7 Novice
8 First name of 20-Across
9 Green type of soup
10 Earth
11 Carbon compound
17 Pismire
19 Curved molding
22 Finished
24 Hot tub
25 Blunder
26 Tend a dead battery
27 Bullfight VIP
29 Chow down
30 Historical period
33 Whip mark
36 Invisible rabbit of stage and screen
38 Spry, like Jack
40 Luau bowlful
42 "Hey, you!"
43 Listen to
44 Read bar codes
46 Verbal
47 Without (Fr.)
48 Youngster
50 Id counterpart

Solution time: 27 mins.

J	A	M	■	T	I	L	E	■	A	P	E	S
A	B	A	■	O	D	I	N	■	W	E	R	E
R	E	G	I	M	E	N	T	■	F	R	E	E
S	I	I	N	I	S	■	E	M	U	■	■	■
■	■	■	P	O	T	■	R	E	L	E	N	T
A	I	B	U	M	■	Y	F	W	■	K	O	I
J	O	L	T	■	S	A	D	■	L	E	E	R
A	D	O	■	A	U	K	■	S	I	D	L	E
R	E	C	E	N	T	■	E	O	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	G	N	U	■	S	I	F	D	G	F
P	R	I	G	■	R	F	S	I	D	F	N	T
I	A	C	O	■	E	G	A	D	■	L	A	C
A	M	E	N	■	S	O	Y	S	■	E	T	H

Friday's answer 4-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Asa Butterfield, 16; Hillary Scott, 27; Susan Boyle, 52; Debbie Reynolds, 81

Happy Birthday: Travel to places that are educational or enable you to expand your interests or meet new people. Making personal changes that enhance your looks, your attitude or your lifestyle should be your intent. A partnership will allow you to raise your earning potential. A problem with a friend, relative or authority figure will be based on deception. Your numbers are 8, 14, 17, 21, 33, 35, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Gather information that will lead to expertise, skills or education. Don't sit idle when it's up to you to make things happen. A partnership will affect your ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Visiting someone who is well connected will be enlightening. The more initiative and persistence you exude, the higher your return. Pending contracts or deals with institutions should not be left undone. Push your views and do your best to seal the deal. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll attract attention. Make sure you have your facts straight before you proceed. You don't want to mislead anyone who has the potential to contribute to your goals. Love is in the stars, and showing your passionate side will pay off. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Progressive action will pay off, but you must stick to your budget and keep your emotions in check. Giving someone a false impression will lead to partnership problems. Ask questions if something is not clear. Honesty will determine your success. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Travel and communication are highly recommended. Discovering new information or ways to use your skills and talents more efficiently will bring good results. Making new acquaintances will inspire you to explore new avenues. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let anyone take advantage of you at home or at work. Put greater emphasis on what you can do to improve your situation or make your life more comfortable or convenient. Self-deception must not be allowed to interfere with your decisions. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't make impulsive changes. Keep your plans simple and to the point. Do your best to nurture any important relationships. Avoid putting pressure on others or folding to the demands being made of you. Moderation and truth should be your guides. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Listen to your inner voice, and you will make the best choice. Put demands on people who owe you, and make a point of collecting. Speak openly and honestly but don't make promises that will be impossible to keep. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't fold under pressure. Offer only what you feel is fair. Focus on home, family and making your domestic life fit your needs. Use your skills strategically, and share your emotional needs with someone special. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Past experience will help you avoid a dicey situation that could make you look bad. Don't let someone's change of plans deter you from doing what's best for you. Take care of your responsibilities. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Size up your situation based on what has transpired in the past and you will find a way to make the changes necessary to improve your life. Let your imagination lead the way. Take responsibility and make things happen. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Compromise will be required to reach an agreement with someone crucial to your advancement. Use your intuition to guide you in the right direction. A short trip may be ridden with delays or confusion, but it will bring about positive change. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dramatic, creative and outgoing. You are interesting and controversial.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5		3		1	7			6
	1			8				
			3				2	
9		4	7			1		3
	5						6	
6		1			9	7		2
	3				2			
				5			9	
2			1	4		8		5

Difficulty Level ★ 4/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

1	3	5	7	8	4	9	6	2
2	7	9	6	5	1	3	8	4
8	6	4	9	3	2	5	1	7
5	8	1	4	9	3	2	7	6
3	4	2	1	7	6	8	9	5
7	9	6	8	2	5	4	3	1
6	2	3	5	1	9	7	4	8
4	5	7	3	6	8	1	2	9
9	1	8	2	4	7	6	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOT BREAKFAST **Solution: 7 letters**

B	G	C	N	N	A	E	L	C	S	S	K	O	O	C
R	R	H	O	H	P	E	R	T	T	S	A	O	T	A
U	I	E	C	K	G	O	I	P	R	I	C	E	M	S
N	L	E	A	A	C	U	A	W	A	F	F	L	E	S
C	L	S	B	K	C	I	O	C	T	N	R	O	C	E
H	E	E	P	S	F	A	U	D	H	O	C	D	S	R
S	D	O	I	R	T	A	E	Q	C	R	E	A	M	O
T	T	B	Y	M	M	U	S	H	Y	R	N	E	K	L
I	B	I	E	Y	T	S	A	T	C	D	S	R	N	E
R	N	A	M	U	F	F	I	N	W	I	A	B	G	S
G	L	I	K	E	A	D	E	I	R	F	U	G	R	O
I	L	Ⓟ	Ⓘ	Ⓔ	Ⓢ	W	C	U	R	D	S	Q	A	H
K	Y	L	I	A	D	H	A	R	E	T	A	W	I	C
S	L	A	E	R	E	C	A	K	E	S	G	N	N	A
R	O	L	L	S	T	R	U	D	E	L	E	G	S	N

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Awake, Bacon, Bagel, Baked, Biscuits, Bread, Breakfast, Brunch, Cakes, Casseroles, Cereals, Cheese, Cooks, Corn, Cream, Crockpot, Curds, Daily, Dough, Eggs, Fried, Frying, Grains, Grilled, Grits, Lean, Milk, Muffin, Mushy, Nachos, Oatmeal, Pancake, Pies, Poach, Quiche, Quick, Rice, Rolls, Sandwiches, Sausage, Strudel, Tarts, Tasty, Time, Toast, Waffles, Water

Last Friday's Answer: Graphics

Today's WONDERWORD, Volume 25, 27, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 or 36 based on 5 or fewer words: 5 = average; anchoring for the 1st grade level; 6 = 2nd grade; 7 = 3rd grade; Consortium Literature and Information Technology and Publishing Standards Committee, CLIPSC, 1st Edition, 1/2010, Consortium Publishing, Bellefield Pittsburgh, PA 15213

CLASSIFIED ADS

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1 Commercial Cleaner $5.55/hr. Mail resume to C & H Saipan, Inc. P.O. Box 501608, Saipan, MP 96950.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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(2) General Building Maintenance Worker

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Only U.S. qualified workers need apply.

Interested applicants may submit their resume at dmyram.saipan@gmail.com

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Perform routine preventive maintenance and repair tasks to ensure machines, mechanical equipments, electrical or electronics is in good running conditions and building physical structure condition does not deteriorate. Applicant must be highly skilled in masonry, carpentry and plumbing. High school level or an equivalent of 18 years of continued experience in maintenance and construction related trades. Applicant must be able to keep records of maintenance and repairs works.

All interested applicants must be of good moral character, good health condition and must provide police clearance.

Interested applicants may submit your application to EBETUER SAIPAN CORP. or call Carmen at 234-3124 or 235-1806.

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2-Assitant Manager. Salary $5.55 per hour. 5 years experience required. Must fulfill job assignments from Managers.

2-Welder. Salary $5.55 per hour. 10 years working experience. Knowledge in welding & cutting Metals. Chinese speaking preferred.

Interested applicants please send resume to P.O. Box 503616, Saipan, MP 96950.

Pacific Oriental Incorporated dba POI Aviation
invites qualified US workers to apply for the following:

Aircraft Service Agent (1)

High school graduate or its equivalent with 2 years of aircraft interior/exterior cleaning. Ability to operate different types of cleaning equipment, tools and materials to render grooming and other required services to airline customer aircraft.

DEADLINE: APRIL 2, 2013
Applications may be obtained at the POI Aviation Office.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

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College degree required; Must have experience in reviewing and analyzing web analytics tools; Must be proficient in the use of Apple MC, MS Office, Epitome, HTML and web design; Must be proficient in graphic design software in a MAC environment using: Adobe Photoshop Creative Suite 6.0, Adobe Indesign and Adobe Illustrator; Must have strong organizational skills along with the ability to create high visual impact designs.

(1) JAPAN MARKETING ASSISTANT
College degree preferred with at least three (3) years of work experience in the hospitality industry. Must be proficient in speaking, reading, and writing in the English and Japanese language; Must be proficient in the use of Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint as well as Japanese software applications; Internet research abilities and strong communication skills is required. Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(4) STEWARD
Minimum three (3) months work experience; Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(2) SALES ASSOCIATE
Minimum one (1) year work experience; Previous experience in retail sales, cash handling and using sales systems preferred. Must be computer literate and have excellent communication skills (oral and written) as well as excellent customer service skills. Korean, Japanese or Russian language skills a plus, but not required. Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1) WAITSTAFF
Minimum three (3) months work experience; Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. A copy of valid police clearance (less than 6 months old) must be attached to the application. Skills testing may be required for some positions. PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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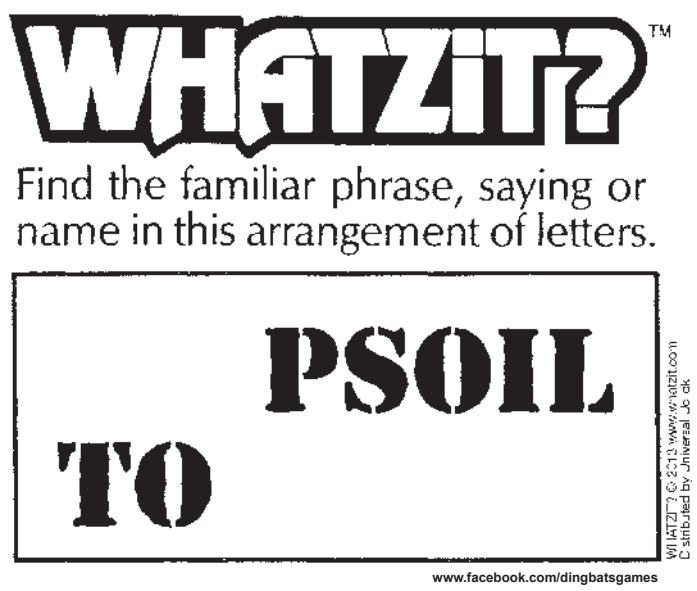

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Wichita State upsets OSU for Final Four trip

AP

Wichita State players celebrate their 70-66 win over Ohio State in the West Regional final in the NCAA men's college basketball tournament, Saturday, March 30, 2013, in Los Angeles. Ohio State guard Aaron Craft (4) walks off at left.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cleanthony Early kept stealing glances down at the hat in his hands while he waited for his turn to climb the stepladder. The Wichita State forward seemed stunned at the words on the side of his brand-new ballcap: "Final Four Atlanta."

"It's crazy. I still can't believe we're here," Early said. "You try to expect it, but you expect a lot of things that don't happen. This really happened."

Believe it. Wichita State is going to Atlanta, and these Shockers are no longer a surprise after the way the tenacious ninth seeds held off mighty Ohio State in the West Regional final.

Malcolm Armstead scored 14 points, Fred Van Vleet bounced in a big basket with 1 minute left, and Wichita State earned its first trip to the Final Four since 1965 with a 70-66 victory over the Buckeyes on Saturday.

Van Vleet scored 12 points as the Shockers (30-8) followed up last week's win over top-ranked Gonzaga with a nail-biting victory over the second-seeded Buckeyes (29-8), whose 11-game winning streak ended one short of their second straight Final Four. Wichita State's 20-point lead in the second half dwindled to three in the final minutes, but several Shockers stepped up with big plays to stop the surge, heeding coach Gregg Marshall's halftime command to "play angry."

All that anger turned into a joyous postgame party at midcourt, even though the Shockers realize they've got more work to do.

"I don't think we're Cinderella at all," Marshall said. "Cinderellas usually are done by this stage. If you get to this point, you can win the whole thing. You beat a No. 1 seed and a No. 2 seed - I don't think Cinderella just found one glass slipper. I think she found four."

Wichita State is just the fifth team seeded ninth or higher to reach the Final Four since seeding began in 1979, but the second in three years following 11th-seeded VCU's improbable run in 2011. The Shockers' celebration was wild, if a bit disbelieving, in front of several thousand roaring fans.

"Last year we were watching all this on television," said Early, who scored 12 points despite spraining his ankle in the second half. "I just feel like we've got the same potential as those (big-name) guys, regardless if they know who we are or not. We just tend to work hard."

Wichita State roared to a 20-point lead with 11 minutes to play after Ohio State played an awful first half, but LaQuinton Ross scored 15 of his 19 points after halftime, leading a ferocious rally that got the Buckeyes within three points in the final minutes.

Tekele Cotton hit a clutch 3-pointer for Wichita State with 2:20 left and grabbed a key offensive rebound moments later, allowing VanVleet to score on a shot that bounced all over the rim before dropping. Ron Baker and Cotton hit last-minute free throws to secure the second Final Four trip in Wichita State's history and a school-record 30th win.

"We're happy, but I'm still shocked," said Carl Hall, the glasses-wearing big man who scored eight points and led the Shockers' strong defensive effort. "We've got a team full of fighters. I brought them all together near the end and said, `No matter what happens, I love y'all.' We had to fight so hard. We've got each other's backs, and it's hard to beat a team that's got five guys who work together like us."

Deshaun Thomas scored 21 points after missing nine of his first 12 shots for Ohio State, which made just 24 percent of its first-half shots. Aaron Craft scored nine points on 2-for-12 shooting against Armstead and a host of defenders for the Buckeyes, who dug a hole too deep to escape with their second-half rally.

"The way we shot coming into the Sweet 16, Elite Eight, everything was falling," Thomas said. "Today, it just wasn't our night. Nothing was falling. We had great looks, some of them, but they just weren't falling."

Yet after two weeks of upsets in the wild West bracket, underdog Wichita State seemed an appropriate pick to cut down Staples Center's nets. The Shockers' well-balanced roster managed built that enormous lead with the same consummate team play that they've shown throughout the tournament.

The Shockers are also the kings of Kansas, reaching the national semifinals after the powerful Jayhawks and Kansas State both went down.

Two sections packed with cheering Shockers fans provided all the encouragement necessary for a team that didn't win the Missouri Valley Conference tournament and was thought to be a bubble team for an NCAA berth. Now, Wichita State is the MVC's first Final Four team since Larry Bird led Indiana State to the title game in 1979.

Another giant awaits the Shockers in Atlanta next weekend: They'll face the winner of Sunday's Midwest Regional final between Duke and Louisville.

"We're all new to this, but I think we're ready for this," Early said. "We're going to prepare ourselves, and this game was pretty good preparation. We started at the bottom, and we've been working our way up."

Everybody chipped in for the Shockers. Armstead, the Oregon transfer, was named the regional's top player. Baker made nine free throws without a miss on his 20th birthday. And both Early and Hall returned to the court with second-half injuries, pushing Wichita State forward.

UCLA hires Steve Alford as new basketball coach

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Steve Alford was hired as UCLA basketball coach on Saturday, spurning New Mexico days after he agreed to a new 10-year deal with the Lobos for a chance to run what he called "the premier basketball program in the country."

The Bruins are bringing in someone who shares the same Indiana roots as John Wooden, who led UCLA to a record 10 national championships, including seven in a row, before retiring in 1975. Alford learned about Wooden as a first-grader in Martinsville, Ind., where his father, Sam, coached the high school basketball team at Wooden's alma mater.

"Ever since then there was a draw to find out more about him," Alford said on a teleconference. "I know my first steps into Pauley I will really feel that."

Alford agreed to a seven-year deal worth $18.2 million, with a yearly salary of $2.6 million and a $200,000 signing bonus, according to UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero.

Alford will be introduced in Westwood on Tuesday.

"This is truly a leap of faith," he said.

Guerrero said UCLA reached out to Alford first, not knowing whether he would be interested in the Bruins. Once he confirmed he was, the details were finalized early Saturday, Guerrero said.

"It was not an easy decision because I was extremely happy," Alford said. "I was about as happy as I can be.

"When I kept thinking about things, it still came back to UCLA. You're talking about the premier basketball program in the country. To have an opportunity like this, they don't come around every day."

Guerrero said Alford is "the perfect fit for UCLA" because he connects with a new generation of players and brings an uptempo and team-oriented style of play to Westwood.

"He's ready for this stage," Guerrero said.

Alford's deal with New Mexico, scheduled to take effect on April 1, was worth more than $20 million over 10 years.

Guerrero said Alford is responsible for a buyout of his agreement in Albuquerque, but that UCLA would work out the details. Both Alford and New Mexico athletic director Paul Krebs said they didn't know how much the buyout was worth.

Alford, who is 48, succeeds Ben Howland, who was fired last weekend after 10 years and a 233-107 record that included three consecutive Final Four appearances and four Pac-12 titles. The Bruins were 25-10 this season, which ended with a 20-point loss to Minnesota in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Alford led New Mexico to a 29-6 record this season that included the Mountain West regular-season and tournament titles. But the Lobos were upset by Harvard in the second round of the NCAAs shortly after Alford's new contract had been announced.

Alford had a 155-52 record in six years at New Mexico, with the Lobos making three trips to the NCAA tournament. He was selected Mountain West coach of the year three times.

Syracuse advances, beats Marquette

WASHINGTON (AP)—When played to perfection, there's nothing quite like Syracuse's aggressive, half-court 2-3 zone defense.

It's 40 minutes of trapping and shot-challenging, of closing off angles, of trusting teammates.

"We showed," senior guard Brendan Triche said, "that defense wins games."

Yes, the Orange D certainly does.

With a second suffocating performance at the East Regional, No. 4-seeded Syracuse shut down No. 3 Marquette 55-39 Saturday to earn coach Jim Boeheim his fourth trip to the Final Four—and first since a freshman named Carmelo Anthony helped win the 2003 NCAA championship.

"A tremendous, tremendous defensive effort," Boeheim said.

Fittingly, a matchup between schools from the soon-to-break-apart, rough-and-tumble Big East became quite a struggle on the offensive end. Syracuse (30-9) was led by senior forward James Southerland's 16 points. Michael Carter-Williams, a 6-foot-6 guard who is out front in the zone, was named the regional's top player after accounting for 12 points, eight rebounds, six assists, five steals and only one turnover Saturday.

Marquette (26-9) hadn't scored fewer than 47 points all season—and, indeed, put up 74 in a victory over Syracuse on Feb. 25. But this time, Marquette kept turning the ball over, seeing its shots blocked or just plain missing.

The Golden Eagles' 39 points were a record low for a team in an NCAA tournament regional final since the shot clock was introduced in 1986.

"They beat us from start to finish. We collectively tried everything we knew to try," Marquette coach Buzz Williams said. "It is the zone, and it is the players in the zone."

Much like what happened Thursday in the regional semifinals, when Syracuse knocked off top-seeded Indiana by limiting it to a season-low output, too.

"I don't think we've played as good defensively as these last two games," Triche said. "We held some good teams down."

All told, Marquette made only 12 of 53 shots—23 percent—and was 3 for 24 on 3-pointers. Vander Blue, who carried Marquette to the round of eight, was held to 14 points on 3-for-15 shooting.

"They cover ground really good. You've got to get the ball in the middle, you've got to play inside out, you've got to get to the free-throw line and wear them down with the 3-pointer when you can," Blue said. "They're really good at what they do in that zone."

Consider these numbers through four games in the tournament: Syracuse is averaging 6.5 blocks and 10.8 steals, while forcing opponents into 29 percent shooting, including 15 percent on 3-pointers.

"We couldn't get one to drop in from up close," said Marquette's Jamil Wilson, who was 0 for 5 on 3-pointers, 1 for 9 overall. "We couldn't get one to drop in from outside."

The next team to try to solve that defense will be the winner of Sunday's South Regional final between Florida and Michigan. Syracuse is 3-0 in national semifinal games under Boeheim.

And to think: Exactly three weeks ago, in this very same building, Syracuse wrapped up its final Big East regular-season schedule before heading to the Atlantic Coast Conference with a bad-as-can-be performance in a lopsided loss to Georgetown. Syracuse's 39 points that day were the Orange's tiniest total in a half-century.

Kobe surpasses Wilt on scoring list

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) —Kobe Bryant passed Wilt Chamberlain for fourth place on the NBA's scoring list, then put on one of the best passing performances of his storied career.

Bryant scored 19 points and tied a season high with 14 assists despite a nagging left foot injury, and the Los Angeles Lakers kept pace for the Western Conference's final playoff spot by outlasting the Sacramento Kings 103-98 on Saturday night.

"My foot's (messed) up, but other than that, I feel great," he said, chuckling.

Bryant added nine rebounds and facilitated the Lakers' offense for 47 minutes, 37 seconds after Steve Nash exited early in the first quarter with a recurring right hamstring injury. He helped Los Angeles tie a season low with seven turnovers.

"I thought that was key - those 23 seconds. Otherwise he would've been tired," coach Mike D'Antoni said, sarcastically. "He just looked at me and said, `I'm not coming out tonight.' Sounds good to me."

With Bryant engineering the offense, Los Angeles showed some of its best ball movement of the season.

Dwight Howard had 24 points and 15 rebounds, Pau Gasol added 12 points and 10 assists and three others scored in double figures for the Lakers (38-36), who stayed even with Utah (38-36) for the eighth and final playoff seed. Los Angeles hosts 10th-place Dallas (36-37) in a critical tilt Tuesday night.

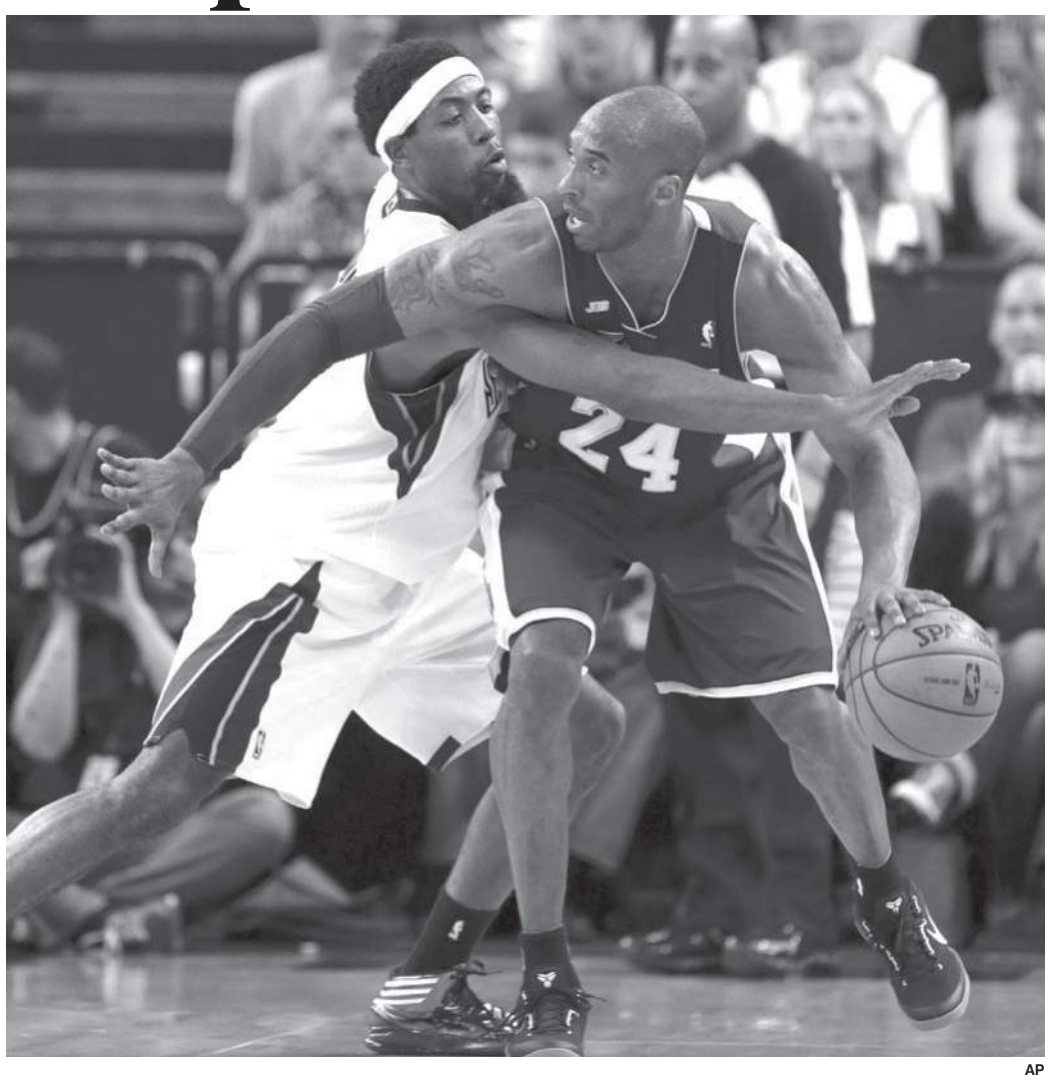
Even with the pressure of a playoff race, Bryant was all smiles in a cramped quarter of Sacramento's visiting locker room. He had met Chamberlain when he was about 8 years old in Philadelphia and long held the Lakers legend in higher esteem than some milestones he's reached because of the franchise connection.

"He was like Conan the Barbarian," Bryant said. "That was the most impressive thing to me. He was just a warm-hearted gentleman."

Bryant's latest performance proved too much for the Kings again.

Tyreke Evans had 21 points and nine rebounds, and DeMarcus Cousins added 19 points and 11 rebounds but missed a pair of difficult 3-pointers in the final seconds to seal Sacramento's latest loss. The Lakers won the season series 3-1.

"I guess you can't really talk bad about the way these guys competed," Kings coach Keith Smart said. "I thought our guys did everything they could from a statistical standpoint outside of winning the basketball game."



AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, right, protects the ball from Sacramento Kings forward John Salmons during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Saturday, March 30, 2013. The Lakers won,103-98.

Thunder 109, Bucks 99

In Milwaukee, Down five early in the fourth quarter, it was time for the Oklahoma City Thunder to take pride in their defense.

They did just that.

Kevin Durant scored 30 points and Russell Westbrook had a triple-double to lead the Thunder to a 109-99 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday night.

The Thunder used a 19-2 run in the fourth quarter for their fourth win in five games. Instead of their top-scoring offense being the reason for that game-clinching run, it was the defense that got the final charge going.

"I told them we had to take some pride in our defensive possessions," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "It was an individual effort by a lot of guys. Serge Ibaka did a phenomenal job protecting the basket and blocking and altering their shots. Russell and Kevin did a good job defending their players."

They did more than just a good job.

Milwaukee held a five-point lead early in the fourth quarter. The Bucks would only manage to score seven points down the stretch and commit six turnovers. In addition, the Bucks' best offensive weapon, Monta Ellis, was held to just nine points.

Pacers 112, Suns 104

In Phoenix, Paul George scored 25 points to lead all five Indiana starters in double figures and the Pacers won their fourth straight with a 112-104 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Saturday night.

Roy Hibbert scored 20, Lance Stephenson 16, George Hill 15 and David West 14 for the Pacers.

Indiana's seventh victory in eight games lifted them a half-game ahead of idle New York for second in the Eastern Conference.

Goran Dragic, who sat out the previous two games for a rest, had 21 points and nine assists for the Suns before fouling out with 1:10 to play.

Warriors 125, Trail Blazers 98

In Oakland, Stephen Curry scored 39 points and the Golden State Warriors moved one step closer toward ending their five-year playoff drought with a 125-98 win over the Portland Trail Blazers on Saturday night.

Carl Landry had a season-high 25 points and 10 rebounds coming off the bench, while David Lee had 13 points for the Warriors, who maintained their 1 1/2-game lead over Houston for sixth place in the Western Conference. Golden State lowered its magic number for clinching a playoff berth to five games.

Meyers Leonard led the Trail Blazers with 22 points and 10 rebounds. Damian Lillard scored 16 points for Portland and tied the NBA's single season rookie record for 3-pointers, but was nowhere as effective as he was in his first trip back home.

Mavericks 100, Bulls

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki said the ball felt flat coming out of his hand.

It turned out to be the perfect trajectory for the Dallas Mavericks.

Nowitzki hit a 3-pointer with 2.9 seconds left and the Mavericks rallied to beat the Chicago Bulls 100-98 on Saturday.

"This game was kind of like the story of our season," said Nowitzki, who finished with a season-high 35 points. "Every time someone writes us off, we find a way to come back."

The Mavericks trailed by 12 in the fourth quarter, but Nowitzki scored Dallas' last eight points in a 15-1 run over the final 3 1/2 minutes of the game.

After Jimmy Butler missed two free throws with 15.9 seconds remaining, Vince Carter drove down the lane and kicked a pass out to Nowitzki, who stepped into a 3-pointer with Luol Deng running at him.

Sixers 100, Bobcats 92

In Philadelphia, Jrue Holiday scored 10 straight points down the stretch, Evan Turner finished with 22 and the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Charlotte Bobcats 100-92 Saturday night.

After going 1 for 9 in the first three quarters, Holiday got 11 of his 14 points in the fourth to help the Sixers win for the seventh time in 11 games.

Spencer Hawes had 19 points and Thaddeus Young and Damien Wilkins each scored 15 for Philadelphia.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 21 for Charlotte, which has the worst record in the NBA. Gerald Henderson, who had 35 and 34 in his previous two games, finished with 19.

Jazz 116, Nets 107

In Salt Lake City, Randy Foye scored 26 points, tying a career high with eight 3-pointers, and the Utah Jazz defeated the Brooklyn Nets 116-107 Saturday night to keep Deron Williams winless against his former team.

The victory was the fourth straight for Utah (38-36), which entered the night eighth in the Western Conference by virtue of its tiebreaker over the Lo Angeles Lakers.

Williams played better than he did in his first trip back in January 2012, but couldn't match the 3-point shooting of Utah. Foye made 8 of 9 and the Jazz hit 10 of 17 as a team.

The Jazz also forced 17 turnovers by the Nets.

Brook Lopez led Brooklyn (42-31) with 27 points. Williams had 21 on 6-of-14 shooting, with 11 assists.

Grizzlies 99, Timberwolves 86

In Minneapolis, the Memphis Grizzlies broke out of their road slump the only way they know how: by locking down on defense.

Marc Gasol scored 21 points and the Grizzlies pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 99-86 on Saturday night.

Mike Conley scored 19, Zach Randolph 14 and Darrell Arthur had 12 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter for the Grizzlies, who ended a five-game road losing streak with their 11th straight victory over Minnesota.

"It's huge," Conley said. "We've lost some games we probably could have won. To beat a team that is playing well like Minnesota is always a big win. We're trying to get to that third spot, that fourth spot. We're right there if we can keep winning."

Hawks 97, Magic 88

In Atlanta, the Orlando Magic's playing rotation underwent a radical transformation over the summer and subsequent renovations throughout the season because of injuries and trades.

But one trend remains the same no matter which five players the Magic put onto the floor.

The Magic just don't generate enough offense to beat the Atlanta Hawks.

Despite the return of center Nik Vucevic from a mild concussion, the Magic fell to the Hawks 97-88 Saturday night at Philips Arena, the 10th consecutive regular-season game the Magic have lost to the Hawks.

Rockets 98, Clippers 81

In Houston, playing without leading scorer James Harden, the Houston Rockets cracked one of the league's best defenses by spreading the ball around.

Jeremy Lin, Chandler Parsons and Francisco Garcia scored 15 points apiece and Omer Asik added 13 points to lead the Rockets to a 98-81 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Saturday night.

Harden missed his third game of the season with a right ankle sprain, but the Rockets had all the right answers in his absence.

Verlander, Tigers agree to record $180M deal

DETROIT (AP)—For Justin Verlander, $180 million was enough. No need to wait two seasons, become a free agent and find out how much baseball's biggest spenders would offer.

"I wondered what it would be like to test free agency, but the pull of Detroit was too much," the Tigers' ace said Friday after agreeing to a seven-year contract, the richest deal for a pitcher in baseball history. "Once spring training started I knew I wanted to stay."

Verlander's deal broke the record for pitchers set just a month earlier when Seattle's Felix Hernandez agreed to a $175 million, seven-year contract.

"It's a very exciting day," Tigers President Dave Dombrowski said. "It's a big day for us. He's as fine a pitcher as there is in baseball. His record speaks for itself. He can be one of the greatest, if not the greatest pitcher in Tiger history."

The 2011 AL MVP and Cy Young Award winner had been signed through 2014 under an $80 million, five-year contract paying him $20 million in each of the next two seasons.

The new deal keeps those salaries and adds $140 million in guaranteed money: $28 million each season from 2015-19. It includes a $22 million option for 2020 that would become guaranteed if he finishes among the top five in 2019 Cy Young voting. The deal could be worth $202 million over eight seasons.

"The city of Detroit is committed to winning," he said. "I'm so excited to be playing in Detroit. I was never shy about saying I wanted to stay in Detroit. It's tough to put into words how much I love Detroit. We have the best fans in baseball."

Considered an elite pitcher since winning the 2006 AL Rookie of the Year award, the 30-year-old right-hander is 124-65 with a 3.40 ERA in eight major league seasons with two no-hitters. He was 24-5 two years ago, becoming the first starting pitcher to sweep Cy Young and MVP since Boston's Roger Clemens in 1986.

Verlander also has compiled a 19-win season and two each of 18 and 17. He led the big leagues in strikeouts and innings in 2009, 2011 and 2012.

"He is never going to be content," Dombrowski said. "He wants a World Series, and he wants the Hall of Fame."

Verlander's teammates were pleased for their star pitcher.

‘Shine’ Tenorio gets MGA March Ace

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in MGA’s March Ace tournament pose for a group photo at Laolao Bay Golf Resort late last month.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Juan “Shine” Tenorio topped the Marianas Golf Association’s March Ace of the Month Tournament held on March 24 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort’s east course.

Tenorio bested 23 other competitors, which included nine blue tee, champion-level players, 15 white tee intermediate bets, and three red tee ladies participants. Three guest players were also on the list.

The March Ace winner recorded a 46 on the front nine set and finished the monthly tournament with a 44 on the back for an even gross of 90. Tenorio went on to post a field-low net of 66 after deducting his handicap

Tenorio won by two strokes against Tony Benavente and Gary Cruz, who finished with matching net cards of 68. Benavente, who had a steady 39 on the front and 41 on the back for a solid 80 gross, won the tiebreak for second place. Cruz settled for third after scratching in a 46 and a 45 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 91.

Other notables included Ernest Sablan (93gross/69 net) and blue chipper Dung Tenorio (80 gross/71 net) who placed fourth and fifth, respectively.

Juan “Shine” Tenorio also won closest to the pin honors on hole No. 6, joining the company of J.J. Atalig (hole No. 4) Gary Cruz (No. 11), and Greg Sablan Jr. (No. 15)

Meanwhile, MGA president Carl J. Hocog said they are still accepting new members and deadline for payment of annual membership fee of $50 has been extended until the group’s June event. Hocog would also like to thank everyone who participated in this month’s tournament, LaoLao Bay Golf Resort for their partnership, and Mr. & Mrs. J.J. Atalig, and family for hosting the group at their residence.

For more information about the newly formed organization, contact Atalig at 285-4115, Greg Sablan Jr. at 483-8263, email marianas-golf670@gmail.com or visit the group’s Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/MarianasGolfAssociation.

MISO

From Page 28

kawa, while Tishoya Kurohara coached the visiting squad.

Playing for the MHS Dolphins were Rachel Abrams, Erream Badilles, Jeraldine and Jeralyn Castillo, Patricia Echavez, Lahaina Gatchalian, Charlene Lizardo, Marlene Lumabi, Kim Ocampo, Friendly Joy Pena, Gabrielle Race, and Glorily Williams. Steve Jents and Preston Basa called the shots for both local squads.

The MISO Boys All-Stars dropped their first match, losing to MISO champion Tinian High School Stallions, 24-28, but rebounded with a 31-26 victory over the Reds Impulse in their first meeting. The eventual champions then pounded the COPSSA Boys All-Stars, 49-16, to earn passage into the finals.

The Red Impulse was also victorious over COPSSA in its debut, 42-17, before falling to the eventual champions and then managed to knock off the THS Stallions, 38-33, to get a second crack at its rivals. The win over Tinian was Settsu’s second in as many games, earning the visiting team the distinction of being the only squad to beat the Stallions for two straight years.

In the finals, the Red Impulse took a 29-23 advantage in the opening period after getting 11 markers from shooting guard Kawano and enough contributions from four other players. Settsu maintained control through midpoint, 45-39, as Kawano drained a couple of three-pointers for eight more markers in the second frame.

Though in a hole, the MISO Boys All-Stars shared the ball well in the first half with Aranda, De Guzman and Salem teaming up on offense. The trio then battled back to grab the driver’s seat, 61-60, heading into crunch time. Aranda led the rally in the third quarter, firing 8 points.

The MISO Boys All-Stars completed the come-from-behind win in the fourth, as Kawano was then held to just a handful in the payoff period and the home bets managed a late surge to put the game out of reach. Alegre delivered in the clutch with his 9 points, while Salem contributed 6 to secure the win.

In the end, Aranda paced the MISO Boys All-Stars with his 20 points, while Kawano led all scorers with his 31.

In the girls division, the Lady Dolphins went through the COPSSA All-Stars, 38-22, and then defeated the MISO Ladies, 24-4, to advance to the finals. The COPSSA selection prevailed over the MISO Girls All-Stars twice, 21-12, and, 71-54, to earn a finals appearance.

In the winner-take-all finale, the Dolphins worked out an early 12-8 edge before breaking away with a 29-14 advantage at the half. Jeraldine Castillo paced the MISO All-Stars in the first half with her 10 points. Jazmin Rayphand of Grace Christian Academy, tallied 8 markers and did all she could to keep COPSSA in firing range, but failed to get enough support.

The Dolphins did not let up after the break and pulled away, 58-24, heading into the final a stanza to walk with the easy win. Mount Carmel School’s Kaylani Lebria splashed in a couple of treys in the third quarter, but COPSSA could not make a much-needed stand on the defensive end.

With COPSSA struggling on defense, the Dolphins capitalized and had eight different scorers in the third period, while Jeraldine Castillo and Lizardo closed the shop in the fourth frame, making 6 points apiece.

Jeraldine Castillo led the Lady Dolphins with 17 points, while Rayphand had a team-high 10 markers.

Boys Finals

MISO All-Stars 88 – Aranda 20, Alegre 17, Salem 16, Dela Rosa 16, De Guzman 12, Melwelbug 4.

Settsu Red Impulse 80 – Kawano 31, Matsumoto 16, Takikawa 10, Ishikawa 9, Arimizu 6, Akasaka 2, Eguchi 2, Kusunoki 2, Nakano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-29, 39-45, 61-60, 88-80.

Girls Finals

MHS Lady Dolphins 72 – Jerald Castillo 17, Williams 12, Abrams 10, Lizardo 9, Gatchalian 6, Pena 6, Jeraly Castillo 4, Echavez 2, Lumabi 2, Ocampo 2, Race 2.

MISO All-Stars 32 – Rayphand 10, Lebria 6, Kautz 6, Che 3, Demapan 2, Canedo 1, Lee 1, Travilla 1.

Scoring by quarters: 12-8, 29-14, 58-24, 72-32.

NMBA

From Page 28

third in the highly competitive A singles. In the doubles, Caranto teamed up with CBC coach Andreau Galvez in beating Sam Jones and Glenn Bluutjens in the finals.

The early success of the NMBA youth players in the first event of the season did not surprise tournament director Macoi Aguda, saying that the U18 players have been practicing hard for the past few months leading up to their debut in the Sun Palace competition.

“They came to the tournament ready and with confidence. With our youth players success at the start of the season, I think this would give us a motivation to encourage more young players to get into the sport,” Aguda said.

“It’s a good start for NMBA. We will be more inspired to teach badminton and good sportsmanship to our youth players. Hopefully, in the next few months, the number of youth players will increase,” the tournament director added.

Meanwhile, Aguda also took note of the balance competition in the men’s division of their first tournament of the year, as no male player won multiple championships in the month-long contest.

“The tournament committee members did a great job classifying the players. It was a even field,” Aguda said.

Ferdie Arago pulled off an upset over perennial men’s A singles winner Galvez, while newcomer Daniel Shen had a winning debut against Jeff Riman. Galvez managed to redeem himself in the doubles with his and Caranto’s win over Bluutjens and Jones, while Oh Im Bog had a new partner in Saliya Rajapakshe and they prevailed over Alvin Alvarez and Edwin Maratas in the B doubles finals. Riman also saved one championship when he and Rommel Bartolome downed Panapa Peteru and Celso Agui in the C doubles finals.

MP UNITED

From Page 28

After neither squad broke into the scoreboard in the first 45 minutes of play, Fruit ended the drought in the 60th minute. The Paire striker then connected on his second goal 11 minutes later, while Shirley’s continued to have a lackluster offense in the final frame.

GIRLS U15
MP United 2, Tan Holdings 1

Over at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, MP United edged Tan Holdings.

Kyla Ito logged the winning goal for MP United, scoring in the 64th minute. Jan-Nasia Travilla tallied the other goal for MP United, putting the team on the board first with her goal in the 13th. MP United went on to keep the 1-0 lead at the break.

Tan Holdings then managed to force a standoff when Chloe Salvosa scored just six minutes into the second half. However, Ito was there to break the tie and lift MP United to the close win.

Paire 1, Shirley’s 1

In the other girls u15 match, Paire and Shirley’s engaged in a draw after scoring one goal apiece in the first half.

An early goal (fourth minute) from Guinevere Borja put Paire on top of the match and it hang on to the lead for more than 15 minutes before Shirley’s equalized. The game-tying goal came from Diana Maniacop in the 20th minute.

Both teams tried to end the deadlock in the second half, making several attacks, but neither squad was successful and settled for a draw.

BOYS U18
Tan Holdings 1, Paire 1

The lone game in the boys U18 at the Oleai pitch also ended in a draw.

Thanyakorn Konkoed boosted Paire’s chances for the win when he scored midway in the second half. However, Isaac Anderson save Tan Holdings from an impending loss with his game-tying goal in the closing minutes of the match.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	45	26	.634	—
x-Brooklyn	42	31	.575	4
Boston	38	34	.528	7½
Philadelphia	30	43	.411	16
Toronto	27	45	.375	18½

Southeast Division

z-Miami	57	15	.792	—
x-Atlanta	41	33	.554	17
Washington	26	46	.361	31
Orlando	19	55	.257	39
Charlotte	17	56	.233	40½

Central Division

x-Indiana	47	27	.635	—
x-Chicago	39	32	.549	6½
Milwaukee	35	37	.486	11
Detroit	24	49	.329	22½
Cleveland	22	49	.310	23½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	55	17	.764	—
x-Memphis	49	24	.671	6½
Houston	40	33	.548	15½
Dallas	36	37	.493	19½
New Orleans	25	48	.342	30½

Northwest Division

x-Oklahoma City	54	20	.730	—
x-Denver	50	24	.676	4
Utah	38	36	.514	16
Portland	33	40	.452	20½
Minnesota	26	46	.361	27

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Clippers	49	25	.662	—
Golden State	42	32	.568	7
L.A. Lakers	38	36	.514	11
Sacramento	27	47	.365	22
Phoenix	23	51	.311	26

x-clinched playoff spot
z-clinched conference

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	73	658	623	2067	28.3
Anthony, NYK	58	546	375	1601	27.6
Bryant, LAL	71	677	453	1931	27.2
James, MIA	72	727	382	1937	26.9
Harden, HOU	70	525	609	1817	26.0
Westbrook, OKC	73	598	410	1691	23.2
Curry, GOL	69	539	237	1544	22.4
Wade, MIA	66	549	294	1409	21.3
Aldridge, POR	69	593	263	1451	21.0
Parker, SAN	60	492	253	1261	21.0
Ellis, MIL	71	530	256	1386	19.5
Lillard, POR	72	488	235	1375	19.1
Lopez, Bro	65	493	253	1239	19.1
Pierce, BOS	71	444	308	1328	18.7
Lee, GOL	70	536	229	1301	18.6
Holiday, PHL	68	505	164	1255	18.5
Griffin, LAC	71	520	260	1304	18.4
Williams, Bro	69	424	264	1258	18.2
Gay, TOR	65	450	212	1176	18.1
Jennings, MIL	71	448	215	1262	17.8

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Jordan, LAC	274	427	.642
Koufos, DEN	274	458	.598
McGee, DEN	281	487	.577
Splitter, SAN	283	494	.573
Howard, LAL	402	704	.571
Hickson, POR	380	670	.567
Ibaka, OKC	391	691	.566
Johnson, TOR	300	532	.564
James, MIA	727	1299	.560
Faried, DEN	356	646	.551

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, LAL	67	225	621	846	12.6
Asik, HOU	72	244	588	832	11.6
Vucevic, ORL	68	230	550	780	11.5
Randolph, MEM	66	280	476	756	11.5
Noah, CHI	63	256	464	720	11.4
Lee, GOL	70	198	585	783	11.2
Chandler, NYK	62	260	422	682	11.0
Hickson, POR	71	242	521	763	10.7
Evans, Bro	71	228	516	744	10.5
Horford, ATL	69	179	529	708	10.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	38	420	11.1
Paul, LAC	61	587	9.6
Vasquez, NOR	71	653	9.2
Holiday, PHL	68	578	8.5
Williams, Bro	69	526	7.6
Parker, SAN	60	457	7.6
Westbrook, OKC	73	549	7.5
Nelson, ORL	56	413	7.4
James, MIA	72	524	7.3
Dragic, PHX	69	494	7.2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Swimmers reclaim spotlight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After giving way to triathletes for the past two weeks, CNMI swimmers returned to action, competing against Guam and Marshall Islands bets in the 2013 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Swim Meet and the 35th Annual SSC Ocean Swim.

The host club fielded more than 50 swimmers in the two-day international meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool and were joined by Tsunami Saipan bets, along with representatives from Tsunami Guam, Manukai Athletic Club, Manhoben, and Andersen, and Marshall's Kwajalein Swim Club. Members of the various clubs and Saipan's adults swimmers then participated in the ocean swim in the waters off Susupe.

Other notable events last week were the title games in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging, the Pacific Ocean Cup 2, the championship matches in the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013, the U17 finals of the Docomo Pacific Spring Break Basketball Tournament, and the Saipan Bowling Association/Budweiser's March roll-offs.

Adobo won Division B of the DLX caging, beating Gualo Rai in the finals, 66-62, while SSFM grabbed the Division B championship after routing Docomo Pacific, 79-64.

In the Pacific Ocean Cup 2, host MP United FC U12 clinched the championship after outclassing the visiting Vivid Blue in a shootout. Kanoa FC and Tan Holdings FC also joined the four-team tournament.

In the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013, Hannah Choi and Jen Savellano won two titles. Choi notched the women's singles A crown and the doubles tiara with Alma Ortega. Savellano prevailed in the singles B finals and also in the doubles with teammate Cris Obaldo.

Other singles champions in the tournament were Dianne Francisco, Ferdie Arago, Jordan Pangilinan and Daniel Shen. In the doubles, the winners list include Andreau Galvez and Caranto, Saliya Rajapakshe and Oh Im Bog, Jeff Riman and Rommel Bartolome, and Roxe Lazaro and Lanie Santos.

In the Docomo caging, the U17 crown went to Rainbow Supply, which defeated Proa in the finals, 42-39.

In the SBA March roll-offs, Lala Taitano, Robert Talavera, and Ji Hoon Lee topped their respective divisions.

Meanwhile, other on-going leagues/competitions on Saipan continued last week.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association had its M-League and Women's M-League, and the youth spring league and Saipan Little League Baseball held Major, Junior, Big, and Senior games.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 2.5-kilometer race in the 35th Annual SSC Ocean Swim wait for the start of the event.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gualo Rai's Joseph Galulu pulls up for a running jumper against Adobo defenders during their Division B title game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

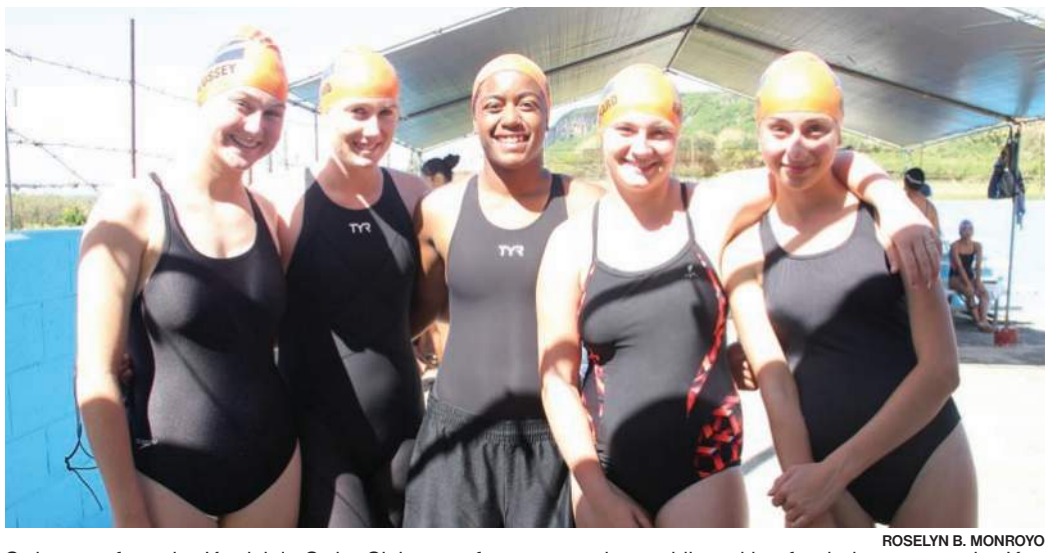
A young swimmers participants in the 100m backstroke event during last week's 2013 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan's Angel Marie Tan does the butterfly leg of the 200m individual medley race of last week's 2013 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Rainbow Supply player, left, pressures a Proa ball handler during their title game in the U17 division of the Docomo spring caging last Thursday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Swimmers from the Kwajalein Swim Club pose for a group photo while waiting for their events at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An Inter Godfather's player stops the ball during their game against Wild Bill's in the M-League last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

MISO All-Stars, Lady Dolphins win

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Members of the MISO All-Stars and coach Steve Jents, back row third from left, show their trophy and medals during the awards ceremony for the Settsu-Saipan caging last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Members of the MHS Dolphins and coach Preston Basa, back row sixth from left, pose with their trophy and medals during the awards ceremony for the Settsu-Saipan caging last Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys All-Stars and Marianas High School's Lady Dolphins triumphed in the 2013 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament held last week at the MHS Gymnasium.

The MISO Boys All-Stars outlasted the Settsu Basketball Club's Red Impulse, 88-80, in the boys championship match last Wednesday, while the MHS Lady Dolphins reigned supreme over the MISO Girls All-Stars, 72-32, in the girls finals last Thursday.

The boys champion squad is composed of MHS' John Darag, Erick Dela Rosa, Franklin Macahito and Michael Mancao, Kagman High School' Shaun Butters, Russell Hocog, Anthony Malwelbug and Ohmar Nawaz; and Saipan Southern High School's Bryl Alegre, Jack Aranda, Jaymark De Guzman and Nevin Salem.

Settsyu's players include Asuka Akasaka, Sho Arimizu, Kohei Eguchi, Tomohiro Ishikawa, Tokiya Kawano, Riki Kaya, Kohei Matsumoto, Yusuke Nakano, Yuki Oku, and Yuya Taki-

See MISO on Page 26

NMBA youth program gets boost

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Youth players stood out in Northern Marianas Badminton Association's season-opening tournament, giving the group's program for U18 age group a shot in the arm.

The association's Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013 produced several youth champions and finalists who held their ground against seasoned NMBA players. The list include Jen Savellano, Cris Obaldo, Jordan and Janelle Pangilinan, Jen Cardinio, and Jexler Caranto, who are all members of the Community Badminton Club, a fledging group made up of U18 players.

Savellano won two championships, taking the women's B singles crown and the doubles with Obaldo. Jen Pangilinan and Cardinio also joined Obaldo and Savellano in the all-U18 semis of the women's B singles and the Pangilinan-Cardinio duo finished runner-up in the doubles.

In the men's division, Jordan Pangilinan prevailed in the B singles, while Caranto finished

See NMBA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Community Badminton Club's Cris Obaldo stretches for a return during her semis game against Jen Savellano in the women's B singles event in the Sun Palace tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

MP United clobbers Tan Holdings

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United notched the most lopsided victory in Week 7 of the 2013 NMIFA Spring Youth League after whipping Tan Holdings FC, 7-0, in the boys U15 game at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Dakota Hall, Daniel Lim, and Moris Villanueva teamed up in the dominating win, making two goals apiece, while Kennedy Izuka added one. Villanueva got things going for MP United with an early goal in the fourth minute, while Hall notched back-to-back goals (15th and 20th) before Daniel Lim earned another one for their team in the 27th.

Izuka made it a 5-0 advantage for MP United just nine minutes into the second half, while Lim nailed his second goal 14 minutes later, and Villanueva duplicated the feat in the 79th.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holdings and MP United players ward off each other as they chase the ball during their U15 game in the NMIFA spring league last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Paire 2, Shirley's 0

Also recording a shutout win in the other boys U15 match was Paire FC.

Joel Fruit made both goals, heating up Paire's offense in the second half.

See MP UNITED on Page 26